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A VISIT

TO THE

RECTORY OF PASSY;

WITH

SKETCHES

OF

CHARACTER AND SCENERY.

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"It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."—JER. x. 23.

3-k-24

LONDON:

J. HATCHARD AND SON, PICCADILLY.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

In submitting this little work to public view, the author feels it necessary to state that the characters as well as the scenery, are copied from nature. For reasons sufficiently obvious, some circumstances connected with each of the former have been changed, but the alteration is too slight to affect the general truth and fidelity of the portraits.

CONTENTS.

CHAP.		PAGE
1.	*Introduction*	1
2.	*Views on leaving the University and subsequent disappointments*	10
3.	*Journey to Castleton*	17
4.	*Scenery between Castleton and Passy*	20
5.	*Arrival at Passy*	24
6.	*The Rector's Family*	31
7.	*On relieving the Poor*	36
8.	*The Parsonage and adjacent scenery*	43
9.	*The Christies*	51
10.	*Walk to the Mansion*	64
11.	*The Warners—Measures of Improvement*	72
12.	*The Hales*	85
13.	*Sunday School Festival*	112
14.	*Conversation at the Festival*	116
15.	*The Lovats*	145
16.	*Jenny Wood*	170
17.	*The Llewellyns*	182
18.	*The Valley*	193
19.	*St. Helen's Well—Old George*	211
20.	*Conclusion*	225

A VISIT

TO THE

RECTORY OF PASSY,

&c. &c.

CHAPTER I.

I AM the only son of a clergyman now far advanced in years, but descending to the grave with that hoary head, which being found in the paths of righteousness is a crown of glory. He was educated in a large school, the master of which secured his attachment and respect by the ability and assiduity with which he discharged his important trust. He never speaks of this gentleman but in terms of veneration and gratitude, considering him to have been a scholar of the first class, and as a tutor diligent, affectionate, and disinterested. But the attention which he unceasingly exerted for the welfare of his charge, was insufficient for the prevention of many prac-

tices, to say the least of them, unfavourable to virtue. The remembrance of these determined my father to keep me at home and educate me himself; when I had completed my seventeenth year he entered me at ——— College, Cambridge, where a few months after I went to reside.

Two motives influenced my father to send me thus early to the university:—I should probably gain a fellowship and a college living, which he considered desirable, proportionally sooner; and it would give me longer time after my academical studies were completed, to pursue those which are more particularly suited to a divine.

As my dear father lived in a country village, to the spiritual concerns of which he entirely devoted himself, and the boundaries of which he seldom passed, I had little opportunity of gaining that sort of experience which is so useful in a general intercourse with the world. My principles were derived from the scriptures and the lives of my parents, which latter were an excellent practical commentary on the former as far as their limited connexion with society gave them opportunities of obeying their precepts, or exercising their influence. My mind was stored with a fair portion of useful knowledge, and I was as

familiar with active life as books carefully selected and attentively studied could make me.

But if I was thus prepared for the university, as far as my beloved parent's instructions could make me so, there were defects in myself for which no care or exertion of theirs could provide a remedy. My temper was hasty and impetuous; my feelings warm, affectionate, and confiding; void of suspicion I was ready to repose my confidence wherever I found an appearance of candour and regard; whilst my expectations were exceedingly sanguine.

The former may and have been productive of great occasional inconvenience, and I have dearly bought that experience which men of more cold and cautious tempers obtain on easier terms. Yet I by no means envy their selfish and repulsive prudence, and whatever disappointments I may have received from expectations too readily formed and too eagerly pursued, I have abundant reason to be thankful to my gracious maker for them; they have on many occasions enabled me to surmount difficulties which I should never have contested had my hopes been less ardent.

With such a temperament and under such circumstances, my entrance on college life may be

expected to have been attended with many extravagancies; I am free to confess that I committed several, yet they were fewer in number than might have been anticipated, and partook of folly rather than vice. The admonitions given me by my father, and the relation of many occurrences which he had witnessed whilst resident at Oxford, frequently placed me upon my guard, and enabled me to escape many errors into which I might otherwise have fallen.

I was captivated with the gaiety and apparent good humour which reigned amongst my thoughtless and dissipated fellow collegians. During my first term I devoted myself to their society, and entirely neglected the important purposes for which I had been sent there. But when the novelty of this was over and I had leisure to reflect on the real merit of their conduct and my own, I became convinced that neither my pleasure nor my welfare could be promoted by such associations; neither could my father support the expenses in which they would involve me. I therefore resolved to commence a new course, and resume those habits of study to which I had been before addicted.

I have before observed that my father had been educated at Oxford, where mathematical and phi-

losophical pursuits were then entirely neglected. He had conformed to the plan or course of study adopted in that university, and of course I went to Cambridge entirely ignorant of those sciences, which are there cultivated with so much ardour. Several of the freshmen had been well instructed in the elements of these before they had come to reside there, particularly one named Rowland Winston.

I felt the advantages these had gained, and consequently my own inferiority; but I was not dismayed; my sanguine temperament was of singular benefit to me; and I determined not to be left behind in the race of honour, if active and persevering exertion could prevent it.

Winston, like myself, was an only son; his parents were not affluent, they had even imposed on themselves some privations to enable them to place their child under the care of an able master of a select academy, and afterwards to maintain him at the university. He had answered their expectations by carefully improving every opportunity afforded him. He had been diligently attentive to his studies, whilst I had neglected mine; and I was now as fully sensible of the propriety of his conduct as I was of the impropriety of my own. My sanguine temper, which

had made me covetous of distinction, now exhibited him to me as a formidable rival, whom I could not hope to excel. It warned me that I had lost the opportunity of being the first man in my college, and that I must be content with the second place.

Be it so, said I with a decision which has not always belonged to my character; yet if he is to be first he shall labour hard for the preference; and I immediately renounced my gay companions and applied myself to study with diligence. The course I thence followed contributed largely to my comfort and gave a feeling of happiness to the portion of my life spent there, which I have not experienced in any other part of it, and finally secured me those honours which, whilst they highly gratified my parents, yielded me sincere satisfaction.

Prejudiced by the little estimation in which philosophical studies were held in Oxford, I had during the previous term manifested the utmost reluctance to pay any attention to them. The kind and repeated remonstrances of the worthy lecturer, whom I sincerely respected, and whose mild and forbearing conduct towards me, at a time when I deserved severe rebuke, secured my attachment and respect, had only been able

to carry me through thirty propositions of the first book of Euclid; but by diligent exertion I had carefully read to the end of the sixth book before the commencement of the lectures in algebra in the second term.

This change of conduct was soon noticed. Previously I had always chosen that seat in the lecture-room which was most remote from the lecturer. Our class now passed over to the tutor, and from the commencement of the course I endeavoured to obtain the seat nearest him. I was gratified by observing that he occasionally honoured me with that sort of notice which was never obtained by any of my fellow pupils except Winston. Several of these were reading men, yet after a short time they seemed to give way to us, and whether we were early or late in entering the lecture-room, the seats immediately to the right and left of the tutor were always left vacant till we occupied them.

It may be supposed that the sort of rivalry that now evidently existed between us, had created a feeling of hostility; nothing can be farther from the reality. We became cordially attached to each other; we studiously endeavoured to promote each other's views and pursuits; we were eager for superiority, yet ever

communicating to each other whatever might conduce to that superiority, and each of us would have rejected with disdain any means of obtaining it, except by diligent industry and the most open and liberal competition.

It will be immediately seen that under such circumstances we became warm and affectionate friends. Companions in our studies and recreations, our conversations, when referring to the future, never failed to anticipate an intercourse in all our promised plans of usefulness or enjoyment.

I do not mean to say that our friendship was of that kind which excludes all others. We had connexions, some of which were highly prized and carefully cultivated; but these did not exist under those peculiar accompaniments which bound Winston and myself so closely together. The former were such as are frequently formed between persons of similar feelings, placed in similar situations and often brought into contact; pleasant and agreeable to each other, frequency of communication gave birth to a familiarity of intercourse that had its charms and advantages, but when the course of events which had brought us together should again separate us, we looked forward to no farther connexion. There was

nothing in these necessary to our future comfort; they could be replaced by such acquaintances as the state of society would certainly throw in our way. The tie between Winston and myself was of a very different nature; we had become known to each other under circumstances very unfavourable to our intimacy, these had vanished, a friendship of the most exalted kind had grown up between us, and promised to be permanent.

This promise has been realized; our literary race, as opposed to each other, concluded with our obtaining such honours as satisfied our thirst for early distinction. The preference gained by the most successful gave no painful feeling to his rival, who was the foremost to congratulate his competitor on his pre-eminence.

CHAPTER II.

YOUTH is fond of anticipating futurity, and never more so than when about to close the period of education and enter on the exercise of a calling. Winston and myself had often indulged in dreams of this kind, fully sensible that such expectations are far more frequently disappointed than realized.

Our views were very different: my friend wished for a country parish, where he might labour for the spiritual welfare of a simple people, who would listen to his instructions, and whose improvement might employ all his exertions as he walked through the vale of sequestered life. The attachment I had formed to Cambridge was strong, and I wished to pass my days there. I loved literary society, and viewed with regret a return to that kind of life in which it was only to be scantily or occasionally found. I frequently contrasted, in my mind, the unrivalled opportunities which the university affords to the studious, with the difficulties which they have to encounter in most other situations. I had ex-

perienced the comforts of a college life, when time was fully and industriously employed, and I felt that such a course would suit me better than any other that I could anticipate.

The reader must not suppose, that I was in love with that useless life of celibacy, which is so frequently the lot of residents in the universities. These dosing over their advantages and indolently waiting for college preferment have ever been the objects of my pity rather than my envy. I wished for a fellowship, because my paternal resources were too scanty to enable me to remain in college without one; and the restrictions then laid upon the employment of private tutors almost prevented the use of them. I wished to obtain a professorship, in fulfilling the duties of which, I might indulge my taste for scientific research, whilst I was usefully employed in communicating the principles of knowledge to others; to succeed in this, a fellowship was to me indispensable; and, therefore, an object ardently desired.

During my stay at Cambridge I had lived in habits of intimacy with a worthy family, whose abode was the resort of several of the most learned and exemplary characters in the university. The society I met there confirmed my

opinion of the advantages of the place, and I fondly anticipated years of useful occupation, together with the enjoyment of all the delights of domestic life, united to an intercourse with some of the wisest and best of mankind. The picture, which I thus painted in most captivating colours, has not been realized—neither has it been forgotten. It was an illusion—as enchanting as it has proved unsubstantial,—but which has not lost its impression. Had I again to trace my steps, it should still be the object of my most ardent exertions.

As no member of my college, during ten preceding years, had gained equal academical honours, I had no doubt but I should soon obtain a fellowship; therefore, attached as I was to the university, I left it with little regret. I felt confident of a speedy return; I was equally sensible of the necessity of a marked separation between the graduates and undergraduates, and that the discipline of the place could not be maintained without it. I was going to enjoy the company of my dearest relatives under circumstances calculated to make the intercourse peculiarly delightful. A disruption of that with the junior members of the society I was leaving must take place, and the absence of

a year or two, at the most, as I then reckoned, would quietly effect what I should feel painful if hastily attempted.

The tutors and resident fellows had always treated me with particular kindness; and when I waited upon them to take my leave, they expressed themselves particularly interested in my future welfare. Their individual conduct since that time has perfectly corresponded with the professions which they then made of their esteem and friendship. Yet I was passed over in the election of fellows. Year succeeded year, and I had the mortification of seeing men, in every respect my inferiors, preferred before me. When several years had thus elapsed, and I felt obstacles interposed to my success in college, whence, or for what reason, I could not divine, I resolved to attempt a new course. I married, and entered on a scholastic engagement two hundred miles from all my connexions.

The life I thus chose for myself I have found to be one of labour and vexation. In attempting the duties of it, I have worn out a naturally good constitution, without receiving to myself a suitable recompense. I have not lost my reward, though it has not been a pecuniary one. I retain the cordial affection of many of my

pupils, who visit me with pleasure and whose attachment is one of my highest gratifications; the kind attentions which I have received from these on various occasions afford me the highest satisfaction.

Winston's desires have been gratified to their fullest extent, and without the least effort on his part. He went home, and after a few months diligently spent in such pursuits as might best prepare him for his future calling, he entered on a curacy.

His father was a non-resident freeman of ———. A severely contested election of its parliamentary representatives had taken place whilst his son was at Cambridge. There were four candidates: one of the four was brother to a peer in the first rank of our national aristocracy. The contest had been carried to that point when a single vote seemed likely to secure the election or rejection of any particular candidate. Old Mr. Winston had never exercised his right of voting on any former occasion. He had been solicited; but fond of retirement, and averse to the noise and bustle inseparable from such occasions, he had always declined leaving home to mingle in these tumultuary scenes. He conscientiously believed the Duke's brother

most deserving of being returned, and had influenced some of the freemen in his neighbourhood to give him their support: when he saw the contest so nearly equal, he hastened from his retreat and gave him his personal vote. It secured his election: Mr. W. returned home satisfied with what he had done, and neither expecting nor desiring any reward beyond that of self-approbation. Three years had elapsed when the living of Passy, worth five hundred pounds a year, became vacant, and the Duke, who was the patron, without any solicitation, sent my friend the nomination.

Here he has passed his useful course for six-and-twenty years, diligently devoting himself to the duties of his profession, and seeking the welfare of a flock, from which he has never absented himself for a month, at any one time, since he first took upon him the charge of their spiritual concerns. The minister of peace to others, he has reaped peace for himself, and enjoyed all those blessings of it which he so steadfastly desired, whilst so many of his fellow-students were anticipating great things for themselves and cherishing hopes that were only to be disappointed.

That exchange of personal intercourse, which

we so pleasingly anticipated whilst at college, had never been personally realized during the whole of this interval; but a correspondence, more or less frequent, had been maintained. Winston has felt the care of the few sheep in the wilderness committed to his trust so important, that he has never been able to leave Passy to visit ———. All my connexions, as well as those of my wife, lying in ———, we have been compelled, both by duty and inclination, to give the preference to that county, as often as the cares of our own family would permit us to leave home.

At length, twenty-eight years after our separation at Cambridge, I found an opportunity of leaving ——— for a couple of weeks. I resolved to employ them in visiting Passy, and renewing that friendly intercourse which had been so delightful in our early years.

CHAPTER III.

THE appearance of a new country is always interesting—land, water, wood, and sky, though the component parts of every landscape, are yet so indefinitely varied, as in almost every district to present something marked and distinctly characteristic. Such I observed to be the case in this excursion, but more particularly so as I drew near its termination. The country, through which I passed in the former part of my journey, partook of that continual interchange of gentle hill and dale, with occasionally an enlarged extent of more level surface, which generally prevails through a large portion of South Britain; and where the local character is commonly derived from the presence or absence of certain sorts of foliage, particular modes of culture, the extent or total want of enclosures, the different styles of rural architecture, the residence, non-residence, or entire want of great proprietors, rather than from any original features impressed by nature; but as I approached the county of ———, I became sensible of an entire

change of character, altogether independent of accidental circumstances, which originated from the operations of nature, and were such as the supreme Being alone could impress—the small ascent, the gradual slope, the extensive and almost level vale, the luxuriant hedge, with its lofty timber trees, had gradually disappeared; the hills had become more bold and elevated, sometimes presenting abrupt masses of rock, whose crags awfully beetled over the ravines below, or the headlong torrents that pursued their noisy and impetuous course along their bases. The enclosures, if not entirely wanting, were very extensive, and the boundaries formed of loose stones, piled upon each other without cement, and provincially called "a dry wall." The soil thin and poor, produced only scanty herbage: few trees appeared; of these the ash was the most common, and the only one whose stunted appearance did not attest the agricultural poverty of the country. The subsoil a limestone rock, of varied hardness, often showed itself above the surface. In many places the latter was removed to a considerable extent, and the substratum dug up to be burnt into lime: the kilns for the latter were of a construction entirely new to me; instead of being raised

upon, they were sunk into the ground; the mouth or top of these being the widest, and the limestone piled up in a dome-like form; the flame often forcing its way upwards from the bottom of the inverted cone, played vividly upon and around the spherical heap. These were sometimes placed in an elevated situation, sometimes in a valley, often near the road side. As the shades of night prevailed long before I reached Castleton, the nearest town to Passy, the former presented through the darkness a lively image of a volcano: the latter resembled the mouths of a fiery abyss, to which the rapid motion of the vehicle seemed about to convey us, as it hurried down the steep descent.

After a time these impressive novelties ceased, and with them those sudden transitions which mark a hilly country: a few miles of more level road brought me to Castleton.

CHAPTER IV.

WHEN I descended from my chamber the following morning, I found Mr. Robert Winston, the eldest son of my friend, waiting to conduct me to his father's house. We were not strangers. In a visit to my relatives a few years before as I passed through London I had happened to meet him, and a casual meeting, under circumstances like ours, was sufficient to excite feelings of strong friendship. He was then studying the law with an eminent solicitor in Lincoln's Inn. The period of his pupilage was now expired, and he was spending his long vacation, the last he expected to have at his command for many future years, with his parents. At the termination of it he proposed commencing practice on his own account. Anticipating the restrictions which would then be laid upon his personal liberty, he had resolved to employ the interval in revisiting the scenes of his early youth and enjoying in the bosom of his family those delights, of which, in future, he could

only expect to gain a transient and limited participation.

The country we had to pass through was interesting to me from its vicinity to Passy; but independent of that, its singularity and picturesque beauty rendered it well deserving of attention. It partook largely of the character belonging to lake scenery. We had scarcely left Castleton when, having gained the summit of a small ascent, a beautiful stream of considerable breadth appeared, flowing through a valley on our right. This valley varied greatly in extent, and for richness and novelty of scenery surpassed any that I had then seen. It was formed on the south by a sort of table land, which we had just ascended, and along the edge of which lay our route; this was occasionally interrupted by smaller vallies or ravines which branched off from the larger one, and whose bottom was uniformly occupied by a sharp impetuous brook, provincially called "a beck;" which, rising farther up the country, had found, or gradually worn, a channel through which to roll its tribute of water into the stream which flowed through the larger vale. The sides of these ravines were steep, sometimes displaying the bare limestone rocks, at others presenting a surface

almost covered with trees or brushwood. In one of these a water-mill presented itself, deeply shaded, almost buried beneath the thick foliage which covered the rapidly ascending ground on either side, exhibiting a contracted but captivating prospect.

During the whole of our ride we had the more extensive valley, on the right, full in view. Its breadth was continually varying, yet probably never exceeding a mile; the northern boundary rose more rapidly and was more broken and rugged than the southern. The interval presented a rich meadow, formed by the alluvial deposition of ages, and occupied for the most part by herds of short-horned cattle. The river, ever changing its direction, sometimes approached the very base of those heights along which we travelled; then hastily turning away, pointed its course to a remote part, diversifying the view with its endless windings, and scarcely ever disappearing, except when hidden for a few moments by plantations which occasionally occupied the sides of the valley.

After we had pursued this interesting road for about four miles, we suddenly descended the eastern banks of the ravine occupied by the stream and mill before noticed; the western bank was

more elevated, and rose more rapidly. From the top of this the church and village of Passy burst full upon our view. A few minutes more placed us at the breakfast table of my friend and his family.

CHAPTER V.

THE sensations of old friends meeting after a long separation cannot fail of being solemn and impressive. Time makes his inroads on the appearance as well as the constitution, though not with effects uniformly proportional to the length of interval; twenty-eight years had elapsed since we parted. I remembered his ever-smiling eye, his quick but firm step, the animated and often sportive gaiety of his conversation. I recollected that I had shared these endowments, and I felt how much constant vigilance and long endured exertion had shook my frame and diminished my vigour,—perhaps destroyed my vivacity. I was aware that his course had been tranquil, and therefore I expected that his bark had suffered less during the voyage, but my expectations fell far short of the reality. He scarcely seemed to have reached his fortieth year. The cheerfulness of countenance, activity of movement, and vivacity of expression, which at two-and-twenty had numbered him amongst the merriest and pleasantest

of youths, were now chastised by age and experience, but by no means clouded or suppressed. The character was the same but it shone with milder grace and lustre.

"I have long and anxiously looked for the pleasure of seeing you," said my friend, "I need not say how much I am gratified by your presence."

"I feel the gratification at least as sensibly," I replied, "and the more so because you are so little altered since our last parting. Time has scarcely impressed a furrow upon your brow, whilst his snows are falling fast upon mine."

"Your engagements, more laborious than mine, have exhausted your bodily powers," returned the rector; "the symptoms are evident. My lot has fallen to me in a pleasant place; my duties refresh my mind, rather than weary it. Diversity of employment has produced very different effects on us."

"We have both," I observed, "attained, in some degree, our wishes; yours have been completely realized; mine partially so; I wished to become a professor at Cambridge, instead of that I have become a teacher in the country. I desired the honourable and distinguished office of preparing youths in our universities for public

life, whilst I might pursue the cultivation of science in its higher parts, for my own gratification. I have become the tutor to prepare them for the lectures of others, with few opportunities of indulging myself in those studies so congenial to my taste and wishes."

"Yet," replied Mr. Winston, "the hand of Providence has been evident in our disposal. My preferment has come to me as unexpectedly as your disappointment. When we left college, no event could appear more likely than your succeeding in the plan which you had chosen for your future life. Caprice, as singular as it is unaccountable, appears to have driven you into an engagement you never contemplated; yet neither of these have occurred by accident; a Providence, as kind and gracious as it is inscrutable, has directed our paths; my patron was only the instrument in his hands to place me here; the college was equally the means under his influence to prevent your residence at Cambridge. A grateful remembrance of a trivial service seems to have caused the one; an inexplicable neglect, or violation of those principles which ought always to influence public bodies entrusted with patronage for the general welfare appears to have occasioned the

other; but a superior Power disposes of all these events as shall best suit his own purposes for the good of his church and the glory of his kingdom."

"I cannot deny that," I replied, "yet those who have been the ministers of these dispensations, have acted from motives of private influence, and are accountable for their conduct. The conviction that all events are regulated by a divine interposition ought to reconcile us to our circumstances; and if our hearts are under the operation of the holy Spirit, it will teach us that submission to the divine will which is the fruit of his sanctifying influence. This will moderate all the sorrows attached to our course, but yet it will not counteract the effects of exertions and toils which have a continued influence to wear down the strength and enfeeble the constitution."

"True," replied the rector, "yet by reconciling our minds to the duties of our calling, it will lessen the injuries which might be expected naturally to arise from them. If you had not been taught to know that your path, though thorny, is that which your heavenly Father has appointed, you would have experienced a much greater degree of anxiety and vexation; and

have suffered more inconvenience from them. I feel that I can never be sufficiently thankful that the whole of my employment is one of mercy and love. I have trials and difficulties to encounter, but these are so manifestly above human controul, that I can only go to meet them in full dependance on the power of my heavenly Master to remove them, or enable me to overcome them. The remembrance of his goodness on many former occasions teaches me confidently to trust in him, assured that I shall again experience His divine interposition to make my attempts to serve him, and benefit my charge, efficacious, whenever that is necessary. It is also no small comfort to me, that in my labours I am the servant of One who knows all my infirmities, and that I am to give my special account to him who will judge not as man, but as God; who will weigh the secret motives, intents, and purposes of my heart, and accept the work not according to the success of it, but according to the desire which dictates, and the exertion made to accomplish it; and when my work is over I can lay down in peace and take my rest, committing myself, my labours, my family, and my flock into his hands, to whom, I trust, we all belong in covenant love and mercy."

"There," I observed, "is the great difference between your engagements and mine. I trust I go about mine in the same reliance on divine support, to enable me faithfully to discharge them; and in full confidence, that he will approve my constant endeavour to serve him in that path of life to which he has been pleased to call me. But I have an account to give to many others beside him; and these frequently some of the most injudicious and unreasonable of mankind. The anxieties occasioned by the misconduct and rashness of boys; their idleness or obstinacy; their follies or extravagancies; all which require a constant vigilance which must finally wear out the strongest constitution: the compulsion which is frequently necessary to enforce exertion; the infliction of punishment, so painful to a feeling mind, and yet so unfit to be entrusted to any other: these often deprive me of that calm repose which is so necessary to health.

"I have not found the employment lucrative, but I have a recompense of greater value. The attachment and esteem of many of my pupils which I have experienced on several occasions; and even from some, who, whilst under my care, gave the least hope of excellence, either moral

or literary. Some of the latter, after they had launched on the ocean of life, and become partakers of its difficulties, have testified their regret for their turbulent and refractory conduct when boys; and by kindness and attention have endeavoured to recompense the exertions made in their early years for their benefit."

"No doubt," said my friend, "but such conduct must be very gratifying; but that will not repay the wear of strength and health caused by their former idleness or obstinacy."

"It does not," I answered, "yet it is a reward very sweet to the feelings. And when I see many of my pupils engaged in important duties, and fulfilling them with credit to themselves and advantage to others, I cannot but rejoice, that I have been thus useful in my day and generation, even though it has been at the expense of my own health and comfort. These now require an engagement less anxious, and if I could spend the remainder of my life in a retired village, I trust I could undertake the pastoral cares of it with comfort to myself, and, I hope, with benefit to my flock."

CHAPTER VI.

I HAD not seen Mrs. Winston before this interview. The friendly confidence which had marked my correspondence with her husband, had made me to a certain degree acquainted with her. I was now disposed to claim, and she readily admitted, that the wife of my most intimate friend must be in a situation very similar. Such a feeling soon made us cordial, and gave me the best opportunities of estimating her worth. She was certainly the woman calculated to attract and suit her husband. The order and regularity of his mind influenced all his conduct, and enabled him, with an ease that astonished inconsiderate or superficial spectators, to discharge all the important duties of a parent and a clergyman with a zeal and diligence surpassed by none, and to an extent which would seem incredible to many. Mrs. Winston's character was very similar—through all her domestic arrangements plan and design were evident, and the necessary consequences were peace, harmony, and comfort. Every

thing had its place, every duty its time, every person his or her engagement. The house never exhibited any bustle or confusion; any clash of causes or effects. Fewer hands accomplished more labour there than in any other house I ever visited, yet there never appeared either toil or exertion, but constant cheerfulness and serenity.

The person of my hostess was tall and well proportioned; her features regular; her eyes, which were blue, strongly expressive of that benignity of heart which was discoverable in all her conduct: her manners were kind and engaging: the duties and sufferings of a mother had affected her appearance without impairing her health; and though two years younger than her husband, she might have been supposed to have been as many older. The ease and minute attention with which she presided at table, conversed with those around it, and ministered to their comforts, spoke a mind at once equal to, but not burthened with a charge, for which every female claims a fitness, that is much more rarely found than is generally supposed.

The younger son was then spending his first vacation with his father, whose instructions were directed to assist him in prosecuting his

claims to university honours. Miss Winston's activity in assisting her parents and supporting their exertions for the benefit of those around them, will cause her to be noticed on several subsequent occasions.

I soon had an opportunity of ascertaining that Winston's attention to order and duty had not been impaired by the ease and comfort of which he had largely partaken during so many years. As we rose from breakfast he committed me to the care of his family, and particularly that of his eldest son, observing that he uniformly devoted the morning to parochial duties, and adverting to the punctuality, and zeal, and fidelity, with which mercantile and professional men, whose emoluments depend on their application, adhere to their engagements, the results of which are necessarily less important than those of a clergyman, he added, "I can very rarely find a circumstance of sufficient consequence to allow me to infringe this rule. If I was inclined to admit the presence of my friend as one of these, the claim on me this morning is of a description that cannot be postponed. We have a benefit club, established for the assistance of the females in this neighbourhood, and I am obliged to attend the committee, to examine accounts and to

make such arrangements for the management of the association during the next year as may be requisite; these will be proposed to a general meeting of all the members to-morrow."

"In appropriating the mornings to your public duties," I observed, "you do not confine yourself to your study during that time."

"By no means," he replied, "the distribution is entirely according to circumstances; but the appropriation is fixed: the poor require instruction, consolation, and advice; what is administered from the pulpit must be of a general nature; their ideas are usually very contracted, often very confused; if left to themselves they frequently misapply or pervert it, not intentionally, but mistakenly; private conversation and admonition is therefore as necessary for their welfare as public instruction; the former also enables a minister so to direct the tone of the latter as to render it more likely to edify than it would probably be without it. I, therefore, spend a portion of this time in visiting them at their own houses, particularly those who are infirm or sick: sometimes their temporal interests require an interference, or applications to friends or benefactors; some little affairs are to be managed to which they find themselves

unequal, without some assistance. I rarely occupy any part of the forenoon for the latter purpose, as I can generally effect these with more convenience both to myself and them during the evening. Every part of the morning that is not thus employed is devoted to such studies as are closely connected with my ministerial duties."

CHAPTER VII.

AFTER the Rector had retired, I asked if his parishioners were grateful for his attentions, or if he did not frequently experience much ingratitude after all his labours for their welfare?

"No," replied Mrs. Winston, "they are very grateful for his exertions, and testify their regard for him on various occasions."

"Generally speaking," I observed, "there are no complaints more frequently made, or constantly admitted, than those of charging the poor with unmindfulness of their benefactors."

"Perhaps," said Mr. Robert Winston, "many of these complaints may arise from incongruity of feeling between the rich and poor. The distance to which these classes are removed from each other frequently creates a dissimilarity of mind, ideas, and judgment; and, where these exist, their effects must be visible in producing much that is unexpected, and consequently offensive to both parties. The rich then charge the poor with ingratitude, and the poor charge the rich with haughtiness. If the

same kindness had been administered with a better understanding, or in a different manner, it would probably have been received with thankfulness, and remembered with gratitude."

"Probably," said Mrs. Winston, "there is a too general idea, that people in the lower walks of life are much alike in their habits and modes of thinking, and hence relief is too often offered in the same way to all. Poverty does not assimilate the feelings of those who labour under its influence—minds are to be found in a cottage as free and independent as any in a palace; these will not ask for assistance, nor hardly accept it, unless compelled by hard necessity. If distressed, these are most worthy of assistance; but to convey it in the way likely to prove beneficial requires some delicacy, which, as it is not often expected, is rarely employed: we have instances of this in Passy, particularly one man, whose family has been much assisted both by Mr. Winston and our kind neighbour Mrs. Christie, and with due consideration of his independent disposition. He has received their benevolence with a repulsive indifference, yet, on subsequent occasions, he has shown by many actions that he is attached to both his benefactors, and fully sensible of their kindness."

"My father," observed Miss Winston, "adopts one principle, not often received, as the foundation of his benevolent labours. If the case admits of it, he avoids direct relief and endeavours to effect it indirectly. To give liberally, which is sometimes the only assistance that can be administered, he considers his duty; nor does he wish to avoid it; but he is convinced, that alms too freely given only excite a habit of dependance, which injures rather than benefits those whom it is intended to assist. He, therefore, usually endeavours to connect his bounty with some plan or purpose which calls for increased exertion from the object of relief, thus teaching him to endeavour to better himself; a principle of the first importance in every exercise of charity."

"I can easily understand," I observed, "how money readily given will invite applications to receive it, and probably many cases of distress would never be discovered if they were not thus brought to light: but how persons, whose very circumstances form their inability to help themselves, can be taught to do so, seems marvellous. I know Mr. Winston too well to think lightly of any of his plans; but this is so extraordinary that it seems incomprehensible."

"Perhaps I have expressed myself obscurely," rejoined Miss Winston; my mother, being more familiar with these transactions, will explain them more clearly."

"Mr. Winston," replied my hostess, "considers it of the first necessity to awaken in the mind of the individual a due estimation of the comforts which his own industry or management might place within his reach, if properly exerted or directed. It cannot create surprise if labourers, whose habits are those of dependance on their daily exertion, and whose minds are not prepared for reflection or consideration, should be indisposed to farther exertion than what arises from their constant occupation. He, therefore, first endeavours to convince them of the advantages which almost all may derive from additional efforts, frequently not laborious, but if they be so, bringing with them a sure reward: he tries to convince them of erroneous management, where he sees any thing of that kind taking place; and where the promised benefit is remote, too much so to entice their compliance, he has sometimes even hired them to undertake it: and this has often proved successful: when they have experienced the result, they have become sensible of the advantages of fore-

sight and anticipation, and have become provident to a degree productive of very increased comfort to their families, and which has shown that their former listlessness arose more from ignorance than incapacity or aversion to labour. The example too has not been lost, especially upon the younger inhabitants, so that the impulse given by one operation of this sort has been conducive to the welfare of many.

"Has not the fact of hiring an individual to seek his own benefit been productive of injury by encouraging others to wait for a similar inducement?" I asked.

"Not in the least," answered Mrs. Winston. "It was carefully explained to them that the offer would not be repeated; that they would be left to their own subsequent exertions, and that any future assistance would only be granted to relieve such circumstances of involuntary distress as their own prudent exertions might not be able to prevent."

"My father," said Mr. Robert Winston, "is particularly careful to explain his ideas to these poor people. He is convinced that the harsh opinions formed of the latter by many persons, and the ill success of their schemes, arise from the want of their being better understood.

People of decent education, and whose intercourse with the world must give them some acquaintance with most of the common concerns of life, are frequently very far from readily conceiving or understanding such things as are not immediately connected with their daily habits. This inability to discern or comprehend what is desirable for their improvement, but not familiar to their observation, must be much increased by the ignorance of the humbler classes, and their very few opportunities of acquiring information. Thus it is easy to see that if the wages of labourers during winter, when every want is most urgent, are sufficient for their support, during summer when their wages are higher and their necessities fewer, they must have to spare. It may be replied, that during this season they obtain many articles of clothing and convenience which they could not procure at any other period; with these he could not wish to interfere, but he still thought, that during the time of plenty, gratifications were frequently indulged only productive of injury; if these could be converted into a resource to supply the wants of winter it would be a great benefit; permanent assistance he considered, as at least not objectionable in such a measure. He therefore in-

vited those cottagers who had the largest families to deposit with him two shillings weekly, or as they could spare it, during summer, promising that he would repay them three shillings during as many weeks in winter. It was with difficulty that he induced two individuals to make the trial. These found it so beneficial, that the year following he had many applications, requesting permission to participate in a scheme whose advantageous they now understood, and the leading parishioners united with him to support the plan from a conviction of its utility; and now every poor family in Passy participates in the comforts arising from such an arrangement."

The arrival of a female visitor, just at this moment, prevented farther conversation on this subject.

CHAPTER VIII.

I WISHED to take a view of the Parsonage and its appendages; the mind of an individual is usually visible in the management of those conveniences which are placed within his daily use, and besides making myself acquainted with the comforts attached to my friend's present situation, I wished to know how far a change of circumstances had produced an alteration of feeling and habit.

The house was of a size which corresponded with the value of the living, snugly placed, and comfortably sheltered by the judicious management of some adjoining plantations; the neatness and order with which these were kept fully corresponded with the well remembered regularity of Winston's early years.

I before observed that the Parsonage was built near the church, and both stood on the verge of a small common; they were separated only by the Rector's garden, which surrounded his house, so that he entered the chancel by a door from his own inclosure. That portion of

latter which lay in front, was occupied by a grass plat, in the centre of which stood an oak of large dimensions and singular beauty; the survivor of many centuries; a carriage-way surrounded this plat, which was again bounded by plantations.

A garden has always been my favourite resort, affording me amusement and solace from all my anxious cares, whilst its propinquity to the scene of my labours insured my immediate return whenever my prsence might be required. I was therefore predisposed to feel interest in that of my friend Winston's, but when I entered it the reality exceeded my expectation; it possessed natural advantages, which being rarely found, I had not anticipated. Its northern boundary was a precipice hanging over the river, which presented two views of very different character. I was brought upon this terrace at the western extremity; as I proceeded towards the eastern one, my eye was occupied with a sight of a rich well watered meadow, enlivened by herds of grazing cattle, and bounded by heights of moderate elevation crowned with woods; but when I had reached the end, and turned to retrace my steps, my eye caught a landscape romantic in the extreme. The table land of which I formerly spoke, and of

which this garden formed a part, declined with an easy slope towards a highway leading to a bridge of three large arches, which crossed the river at about two hundred yards distance. Beyond this road the land rose again to a much greater height, and trending a very little towards the north, showed for a great length a line of precipices overhanging a sheet of water calm and unruffled, which reflected the image of the superincumbent rocks and the trees which crowned their summit. The latter bending forward overhung the crags until they seemed ready to fall into the flood below. A farther trend of the land in the same direction at a distance much more remote, appeared to render it doubtful whether the waters were those of a lake or a river, whose farther course was there concealed; whilst just above the bridge appeared a wear extended quite across the stream; over this the superfluous waves poured themselves in a tumultuous cascade, pursuing their subsequent course with the noise and violence of a mountain torrent. Such are unknown to the inhabitants of the southern and midland counties; but they give animation and beauty to the romantic scenery of the northern and western districts. The op-

posite side was a continuation of the valley, but whose boundary assumed a loftier and bolder elevation;—a break in this formed a glen of some extent; whose east entrance was occupied by a house, the architecture of which corresponded to that prevalent in the sixteenth century; whilst a dilapidated tower, on the very brow of the height which formed the western side of the glen, gave additional strength to the natural impressiveness of the scene.

It is one of my constitutional blessings, and one for which I can never be sufficiently thankful, that I can forget my cares as soon as I am removed from the immediate causes of them. My fond attachment to my garden probably originated in this circumstance. The anxiety necessarily connected with my charge; the continued vigilance which it requires, and the mental burden necessarily felt under such influence have always been forgetten as soon as I have passed my usual boundaries. The present objects have always been sufficient to exclude the painful emotions arising from troubles thus forgotten. The peace, the calm, and content, so suited and so suitable to a garden, have been felt and been my relief at many seasons when I must have

suffered uninterrupted affliction, had not my merciful Father provided me this temporary escape from the recollection of them.

It cannot excite wonder that so constituted I should feel extraordinary emotion on contemplating the grand scenery then first presented to my view. I became insensible of any object except that immediately before me, and the impression from that was one of indistinct admiration rather than that of ravishing tranquil delight; that enchantment which it always has since occasioned as often as I have considered it: Mr. Robert Winston, who was with me, saw the effect it had produced, and forbore to interrupt me by any conversation till he perceived me recovering from that absorption which had possessed itself of all my faculties. He then directed my attention to particular features of the landscape, connecting his remarks with anecdotes which increased the interest it had already occasioned. "You can just discern a spot of deeper shade," he observed, "under that cliff surrounded by an overhanging and almost pendant rock; it is a small chasm, which some years since afforded a refuge to a fox when hard pursued, and in which he seemed secure from his foes, none of whom could tell how he got there, nor contrive how he

might be dislodged. A man undertook to do it, and was let down by a rope; the projection kept him too far from the rock to allow him to reach the cavern, but by fastening the cord to the branch above and giving it a pendulous motion he was enabled to catch hold of some of the roots which creep through and along the face of the crag, when having driven poor reynard from his retreat, the hunters renewed their pursuit, and with sportsmanlike humanity left the poor fellow suspended between the heavens and the water, for in expectation of being drawn up he had swung himself off, and could not regain the cliff; there he remained till discovered by a labourer, from the other side of the river as he returned from his work, who procured assistance and rescued him when exhausted and almost dead from what he had suffered. Just beyond you behold a naked inaccessible crag, the highest point of which has been occupied for many years by a pair of hawks, who there find a place where they may lay their young in safety. Farther to the right, an oak on the edge of a precipice marks a cliff called the Lover's Leap, the base of it is less perpendicular than the summit, and is clothed with shrubs and bushes; some years since a young woman forsaken by

her sweetheart, in a fit of distraction threw herself from thence—she missed her intention—caught by those shrubs, she was transmitted from one to another till she reached the boughs over the very brink of the river;—these proved strong enough to support her by her entangled clothing till she was discovered and extricated. The excitation which had produced the desperate effort was calmed. She is yet living, a respectable and worthy member of society. That tower, that frowns over the glen opposite, is the only remains of a castle, of large dimensions and great antiquity. It is said to have been besieged repeatedly, but never taken, except by hunger. The mansion in the glen belongs to a family whose ancestors formerly occupied the castle, which they left, as the times became peaceful and secure, for a more convenient abode. That house has been the scene of many interesting events. The first possessor had embraced the reformed religion. Powerful and popular, he escaped the persecution of Queen Mary, and sheltered many others, who, but for his protection, must have fallen victims to her fury. During the civil wars, the owner was a minor; but his mother, after the battle of Marston Moor, gave refuge to several of the

royalist fugitives, and extending her care to some of the wounded cavaliers, caused them to be brought here, and nursed them with maternal tenderness, till she could dismiss them restored to health, to seek their safety or support their cause. For this she was afterwards severely mulcted by the Parliament, and the family deprived of a large portion of their possessions. Her descendant, who lived there during the irruption of the highlanders, about the middle of the last century, was devoted to the present royal family. Upon the retreat of the invading army, two highland gentlemen, of the clan Fraser, being cut off from their division, and unable to regain it or make good their retreat into their own country, threw themselves upon his clemency. The appeal was not made in vain. He felt for their helpless condition, the effect of a noble but ill-placed fidelity, and they found shelter with him in spite of the severe enactments which were then made to prevent such exercises of mercy.

CHAPTER IX.

After dinner I requested the Rector to favour me with some account of the present occupiers of the mansion, whose ancestors had been so nobly devoted to the practice of the milder virtues, even to the loss of their property and the peril of their lives.

"I believe," said he, "you will not have forgotten a subject which we have often debated when resident at Cambridge; the permanency of national and family character. The history of that house will supply examples strongly corroborative of your favourite position.

"The Christies received their property by a grant from William the Norman, and the estate has been in the family ever since. Sir Walter Christie, who received and protected the Protestants during the reign of Queen Mary, was probably not less moved to it, by his attachment to the doctrines of the reformation, and humanity to the sufferers, than by his aversion to arbitrary and despotic measures. Few men have possessed a more independent spirit, and

fewer still have known how to exercise it with equal firmness and prudence. Some memoirs of him preserved at the mansion, prove him to have been no less politically alarmed at the tyranny of the government, than he was humanely affected towards the victims of its cruelty. The bold front and firm opposition, which he thus exhibited, appears to have been equally the result of patriotism, religion, and humanity. He was a man of a really great mind; sensible of his constitutional defects, and of sufficient wisdom and energy to control and correct them; and therefore able, during a period of great difficulty, to assume and conduct a series of measures which would have exposed a less able and less popular man to the vengeance of a court as weak as it was violent.

"Lady Mary Christie, whose mercy so nobly relieved the wounded cavaliers after the battle of Marston Moor, was his grand-daughter before she married Sir Reginald Christie, his grandson, and largely inherited his great qualities. She lived to see the Restoration, and experience the ingratitude of that prince, in whose cause her family had so severely suffered. But she never permitted her personal feelings to affect her principles. 'If,' said she to her son,

'I had foreseen all that has happened, I would have acted precisely as I have done. The misconduct of an individual, whom Providence has placed at the head of affairs, can never justly influence us to deviate from the practice of those principles on which we proceeded when we placed him there. If a public man supports public measures, it should be on principle, not on passion.' Her son obeyed her instructions, and during a corrupt, and sometimes turbulent, period, he maintained his independence and integrity, equally braving the menaces and opposing the vices of the court. The expenditure to which he was subject during this period reduced his already diminished patrimony, and in the decline of life he withdrew unrewarded, but not unhonoured, into privacy. Frederic, the grandson of this gentleman, distinguished himself by the activity with which he supported the government, though he gave protection to the Frasers.

"The present possessor is the grandson of the last named. He was left an orphan at a very early age. His mother never recovered from the confinement attending his birth. His father lost his life in an attempt to save that of a man who had fallen into this river during a flood,

and who could not swim. The care of the infant devolved on his grandmother, an excellent woman, in whose character mildness greatly predominated. During her husband's life his energy and decision amply supplied her lack of those virtues, whilst a degree of hastiness and impetuosity, which often marked his conduct, was softened or controlled by her gentleness. After his death, and more particularly after the shock she received from the sudden loss of her son, she fell into a state of indecision and feebleness, both of purpose and action, which proved highly injurious to her charge. Her heart was kind and affectionate. She earnestly desired his happiness. She felt the importance of her trust, but the burden was too great for her strength. Instead of rousing, it paralysed, her feeble energies. The tenderness of the parent was increased by the constant and painful remembrance of a kind, dutiful, and affectionate son, lost both to herself and his infant in an attempt which deserved, if it did not receive, the highest honours. How could she act with sufficient kindness to the child of such a son? It soothed her sorrows to indulge all his caprices and gratify all his imaginary wants, and she entertained not the least doubt but when

grown up to manhood he would as amply repay her kindness and assiduity as his father had done.

"The child, naturally bold and daring, soon found how little he had to fear from a guardian, who only sought to repress his anger by farther indulgence. If at any time a hasty sentence escaped her lips, her vexation evaporated in that expression. She seemed sensible of having done him an injury, and felt an eager desire both to compensate and efface the remembrance of it.

"But the effects of his impetuosity and violence upon others were very different; the old servants, many of whom had grown up in the family, bore much from their attachment to it; but those who had lived there for a shorter period soon grew tired of the tormenting follies of a headstrong impetuous boy, and either left their employments, or took pleasure in teasing, and privately provoking his anger. Circumstances that contributed in no small degree to embitter the sorrows, perhaps shorten the days, of the affectionate grandmother.

"Before young Christie had completed his thirteenth year she died. It is only doing him

justice to say, that he felt the most poignant grief for her loss, and severely reproached himself for all the troubles he had occasioned her.

"The guardians, on whom the care of the lad now devolved, went to the opposite extreme. They sent him to a public school. It might have been anticipated that such a plan could not answer. He was disgusted with the tyranny the older boys in these seminaries are allowed to exercise over the younger ones; he refused to be the fag of another, and when he found the master, to whom he looked for protection, exerting his authority to make him a slave, he ran away. The effect was bad, but the cause was far worse. His guardians were induced to try another method; they placed him in a small establishment, under a master of experience and ability. He felt the change, and though all control was irksome after the unbounded liberty with which he had been indulged, yet he was made sensible of the need of instruction, and submitted to that authority which was tempered with kindness and prudence.

"When he had gone through the period usually spent in this stage of education, he was admitted at the University, but not liking that

sort of life, he soon left it and entered into the militia. His estate entitled him to a superior commission; and in a service where property and neither experience nor merit are the criterion of promotion, regularity and attention to duty can hardly be expected. The disorders to which Christie was here exposed, again called the natural violence of his temper into action; and after some instances of vehemence and passion, which produced effects inconsistent even with the loose subordination of a militia regiment, he found it desirable to retire.

"Returning home, he assumed the management of his own affairs. In these his hastiness and impetuosity appeared continually; and, as every passion grows by indulgence, he daily became more intolerable to all around him. His house was the continual scene of quarrels with his servants. The obsequiousness of his tenants was no protection to them, and every one whose possession of his farm was not secured by lease, was either dismissed or received notice to that effect. The same irritability often interposed between him and those who applied to take the vacant farms. The plain language and blunt manner, in which they endeavoured to make a bargain favourable to their own interest,

frequently excited angry feelings, which broke off all farther treaty.

" His good sense, in spite of his self-love, occasionally told him he was wrong, and at length convinced him that it would be most prudent to leave these transactions to his steward, who had served his father, and during his minority had faithfully discharged his trust, to the satisfaction both of himself and his guardians; and to do this with a better grace, he resolved to leave the mansion and travel for a certain period.

" He had a strong taste for the study of antiquities, to gratify which he had already visited various parts both of England and Ireland. He now resolved to trace the course of the Picts wall, and to do this the more completely, he actually walked the whole length of it twice. The clergyman who had been curate of Branceston in his early years, and had been his instructor during the life of his grandmother, had been preferred to a living in Northumberland. He did not fail to embrace the opportunity now offered to renew an intercourse with one whose kindness he gratefully remembered. He was welcomed and invited to stay. He accepted the proposal, and there became acquainted with

Mr. Marsden, of Heathburn, to whose second daughter, Sarah, he soon became attached, and whom he subsequently married.

"His obligations to this lady are beyond estimation. Possessed of talents of the first order, and a constant habit of self-command, she never suffers any external circumstance whatever to interrupt the rational employment of them. With feelings of the most acute sensibility, no injury, offence, or provocation is ever permitted to occasion the slightest emotion. On the contrary, to acts of kindness no one can be more alive. The slightest attention never escapes notice. Neglect of, or misconduct towards her, is never remembered. It is superfluous to add, that she has won the esteem and regard of all around her.

"The habitual prudence of this lady is as remarkably displayed in the promptitude with which she can decide and execute her purpose, as in the calm consideration which she uniformly employs before she comes to a decision on any important subject, where an immediate determination is not necessary. Clear and just in her conceptions, her view of every subject is so correct and comprehensive, her information so full and accurate, that long deliberation is rarely

necessary to enable her to form her resolution, which is always pursued with firmness, by the simplest and most direct means.

Such a woman cannot be ignorant of her superiority; but whatever she may feel of this she has always concealed it with equal care and success. Her whole demeanour is that of kindness, modesty, affability, and candour. Her husband is never teased with advice. He freely asks what is readily given, but never obtruded. Her counsel is delivered with a delicacy that makes it acceptable to a man, who, under other circumstances, would reject it with vehemence. An ordinary visitor might stay in that house for months, and see in Mrs. Christie only the most attentive and obedient of wives: a more skilful observer would perceive an influence continually exerted, but with so much ability, and tempered with so much sweetness, that he would be convinced that the minister is every thing, whilst she really pretends to and assumes nothing.

"Mr. Christie is fully sensible of the abilities of his wife, but on all occasions he has found her attention to his comfort so studied; her obedience to his commands or wishes, however slightly expressed, so prompt and uniform; and her attention to all around her so unremitting,

that he places the most unlimited confidence in her, and is pleased to have it known and observed.

"Perhaps there is no relation in life more important than that of a mother: certainly none more difficult, though so few feel their inability faithfully to perform its duties. Mrs. Christie's talents are no less evident here than elsewhere. That blind obedience to authority, which is so frequently the only principle carefully instilled into the minds of children, forms no part of her system of education. She considers and treats them as beings possessed of reason, though weak and imbecile, and which it is her duty to strengthen and cultivate. Thus, whilst she carefully restrains them from every thing evil or injurious, she assiduously explains to them the reason of every restriction. The necessity of exertion is inculcated by so many familiar proofs of the benefits connected with it, that I believe few young persons have grown up more sensible of the blessings of activity, or skilled in the employment of their energies, than her sons and daughters.

"I apprehend," continued the Rector, "your principles of education would be found nearly to coincide with those of this lady. 'The intellects

of my children,' she would say, 'are to come up to the level of mine; then it is my duty to exert that influence which will most surely contribute to this effect:—their reason is weak, exercise will strengthen it—they are liable to impressions, I must take care that they receive only good ones—they are now free from prejudice, I must watch to prevent any being planted there—they are open to instruction, I will endeavour to communicate it:' and the facility with which she can instil principles, explain consequences, and make her ideas harmonize with those of her pupils, is very surprising.

"The consequences of this marriage were speedily evident in the altered conduct of Mr. Christie; that hasty and imperious temper, which from his boyhood had disturbed the whole house, and under his own management had made it one continued scene of disorder and misrule, was gradually brought under control. The change was attributed by many to novelty of connection, and these predicted that, when that had passed away, the former extravagancies would be repeated, but the effect has proved permanent.

"No one was more sensible of the change than he who was most interested in it. He

was astonished at the alteration, and for a time thought it a miracle, that these very servants could be kept to their duty without scolding, whom he had found it impossible to regulate by the most violent exercise of authority; whilst those who had before seemed ready to brave his resentment rather than submit to his command, now discharged their respective employments with attention and alacrity. Home became his delight. It is the nature of kind feelings to expand themselves:—the affectionate consideration, of which he found himself the object, created a similar feeling in his own bosom, which soon displayed itself towards his household and tenantry, and there are now few plans of benevolence that he is not ready to patronize."

CHAPTER X.

I PASS over the transactions of the following morning without farther notice than merely to observe, that the anniversary of the female club, the object of which was that of mutual relief in times of sickness and parturition, was celebrated by the members of that society walking to church in regular order, and after joining in public worship, and hearing a sermon by the Rev. Mr. Saxby, vicar of Branceston, they returned to the inn, where they partook of a plain dinner, and then separated. I was requested to attend, and gladly availed myself of the invitation. I found a number of ladies and several gentlemen there: the former honorary members of the association, the latter benefactors; and all attending on this occasion to give countenance and popularity to an establishment, benevolent in its object and useful in its operation.

In the evening I walked with some of the family at the rectory to the mansion, for the purpose of viewing the adjacent scenery from two or three points, where it appeared to particular

advantage. It was not our intention to call on the family, but we found the master and mistress enjoying the evening in a rustic chair, placed under some shrubs near the river side.

I had been introduced to them in the morning, and we now met with the cordiality of friends long known to each other: Mr. Christie conducted me to another seat beneath some beautiful trees, whose verdant and far spread tops sufficiently testified that they sent forth their roots besides the waters. The constant murmur of the latter fell softly over our ears; whilst the rocks, which overhung the stream on the opposite side, and whose cliffs were the habitation of innumerable jackdaws, occupied and limited the front of our prospect. The occasional notes of these birds, as they retired to their evening repose, accorded well with the time and place, whilst the varied height of the rock, and the plantations sometimes upon its summit, the bare cliff appearing underneath them, sometimes upon its side, gave a diversity to the scene, as the spectator turned to consider the remoter parts of it, which was highly interesting.

A reference to an event which had taken place in Passy before the present rector entered upon the duties of his office, gave me an oppor-

tunity of inquiring into the state of the parish at that period.

"The parish was then in great disorder," replied Mr. Christie. "My influence on that side of the river is very small, and in my earliest days there was no resident landholder whose influence might repress the irregularities of the inhabitants. The clergyman, who was then rector, never resided; the duty was done by a curate, whose slender stipend compelled him to undertake two similar engagements. When the former died, the Duke gave the living to Mr. Warner, a gentleman of very respectable abilities, supported by many good qualities, which, under ordinary circumstances, would have conducted him through life with credit and comfort. His attention to his studies at Oxford had induced his tutor to recommend him to the Duke to educate his second son. He discharged that trust so satisfactorily to his noble employer that he gave him this living, and ever after endeavoured, with great zeal and kindness, to promote his welfare.

"When he first entered upon this charge, his public labours were very acceptable: the people were struck with the change between the faithful, diligent, and conscientious manner in which

he attended to his duties, and the hurried and indecent mode in which they had previously been performed. His mode of preaching was very plain and simple, suited to his people. His attention to the poor was kind and persevering; the sick and the distressed knew where to find a comforter and a friend. He commenced a plan for the instruction of the children, but all his measures were interrupted by a series of domestic calamities, which embittered his days, destroyed his usefulness, and finally brought him to the grave, a prey to grief and vexation before he had completed his fortieth year.

"All these troubles arose from an unfortunate matrimonial connexion with a young woman of decent and respectable family, but whose temper and conduct blasted all his hopes. Her manners, without being particularly distinguished from those of women in middling life, were free from any thing offensive and sometimes marked by a frankness and candour that rendered them engaging. Poor Warner, free from all guile, never suspected it in another; he was charmed with her apparent simplicity, and thought himself too rich when he secured as his own, one whom he regarded as the simplest child of nature, with a heart sanctified to the service of God. His feel-

ings were romantic, and he fondly indulged the expectation of a journey through life, with his beloved partner, all peace, harmony, and content, as far as regarded themselves—all hope with respect to their children, and mutual consolation and support under such sorrows as might arise from without, especially from the difficulties of his calling.

"A short period sufficed to convince him of the vanity of these expectations. Mrs. Warner, under her apparent mildness and simplicity, concealed an obstinate self-willed disposition; she had been permitted to assume a large portion of the management of her father's house, in the exercise of which she had acquired habits of confidence and authority, and satisfied of her own ability, she became proud, domineering, and tyrannical. To carry her point was always the dearest object of her pursuit; rather than relinquish this, she would at any time have sacrificed the peace of her family and the comfort of her husband. Deficient in education, and ill-informed on most subjects, she was assured of her capacity to decide and direct every thing, and no part of her husband's affairs or concerns were free from her interference; even in his public and private duties as a minister, she harassed

and molested him by her incessant endeavours to direct him. She insisted on her right to govern every thing; it was of no avail to offer any rational opposition, and to convince her that she might be wrong was impossible. She was assured that she was right, and the appearance of the mildest resistance was sufficient to provoke the exertion of her spirit, a quality on which she particularly valued herself. You think I draw a severe picture."

"I must confess," I replied, "the lines seem rather harsh, but I have no reason to doubt their accuracy."

"We had many opportunities," resumed Mr. Christie, "of observing their domestic economy; we felt great interest in whatever related to poor Warner, and anxiously endeavoured to relieve or console his sufferings. Many particulars came under our observation which escaped public notice. His disposition was so apt to confide and his opinion of his own powers so humble, that any sensible person might have led him to any rational purpose; but his wife knew only one way of obtaining her end, and that was by violence, which she exercised without regard to any one's feelings."

"The situation of a mild and worthy man," I

observed, "thus situated is one of the most pitiable in existence."

"Poor Warner soon found it so," replied Mr. Christie. "When she first began to show her natural temper, he neglected to oppose it, hoping that patience and good example would prove the best correctives. Forbearance only increased the evils he sought to redress, and miseries pressed upon him until he found himself compelled to make a stand, but he then found himself attacked with a vigour of which till then he had neither expectation nor conception. Farther torments induced him again to attempt some relief and he maintained his cause with more spirit than his friends had anticipated, but when Mrs. Warner burst into tears, declared herself the worst used woman in the world; opposed and ill-treated by the man for whose welfare she had made herself a slave; it was more than he could endure; he was overwhelmed, she gained her victory; and as she had no idea of using it with moderation, she pursued it with vigour to secure to herself the advantages of it.

"The evils which had crept into the parish under the former incumbents now recurred. Warner's health, both of body and mind, became impaired under calamities from which it was im-

possible to obtain relief. His public duties were interrupted; he was most sensible of it, and felt that instead of being the bond of union between his parishioners, and giving a tone and impulse to the flock, he was a dead weight upon them and gradually sank into that state of suffering not improperly called a broken heart.

"You will be surprised," added Mr. Christie, "that under all these events, Mrs. Warner contrived to maintain with many her religious character, and the reputation of being an excellent wife and an exemplary Christian; unassuming in her manners towards those not of her own household; fond of being flattered, and easily cajoled by such as found their interest in deceiving her, she never appeared haughty or tyrannical beyond the limits of her own family; fond of attending places of worship, and naturally endued with great facility of speech, she talked on religion and subjects connected with it, in a very seducing and imposing manner"

Just at this moment Mr. Winston rejoined us, and after pursuing our walk through another part of the grounds belonging to the mansion, we returned to the rectory.

CHAPTER XI.

HAVING been so fully informed of the disorderly state in which the parish had been left by the two preceding incumbents I embraced the earliest opportunity of asking the rector what were the measures he had thought it advisable to adopt as most likely to conduce to its improvement.

"You are already informed," said my friend, "that the church duty had been very much neglected and the attendance of the people equally irregular; the majority of the parishioners attended no where. Sunday had become the day of disorder and dissolute mirth throughout the village; the moral character of the parish, as reported through the neighbourhood, was as unfavourable as can be easily imagined. Many of the labourers were poachers and possessed a large share of that turbulent and desperate feeling usually connected with such practices. The squalid poverty and immorality inseparable from such habits were very prevalent, and when I came to be instituted, my heart sank

within me at the prospect of the difficulties I must have to encounter in attempting to fulfil my ministerial duties amongst such a people.

"When I entered upon the task I found fewer obstacles to my success than I had expected, and so many more supports than I had anticipated, that I have always looked back to that period with singular satisfaction, and I trust with sincere thankfulness to that God who gave me grace to attempt and success in my endeavours to labour for this people's welfare. The work was in many respects very discouraging, but I was enabled to trust in the great Head of the Church, and to look to him for direction in many of those prudential measures which I thought it desirable to adopt.

"The regular and punctual attention to the church duty, brought several to attend its services who had before followed sectarians. As soon as I thought myself tolerably well known to my parishioners I began visiting from house to house, entering into friendly conversation with them, and making myself personally known to such as did not frequent the church. By these visits I became acquainted with various particulars which enabled me at subsequent period to adopt measures more suitable to the

interests of my flock than I could have done without them. Parishes are like families, affected by a variety of circumstances, some local, others accidental, and require very different plans of improvement, which will be best suggested by a persevering examination of the state of it, as developed in domiciliary visits.

"These domestic inquiries soon convinced me that many mothers of families were desirous of attending church, but were hindered by circumstances. There were imperious calls on their maternal attention, which operated less powerfully in the afternoon than in the morning, and an afternoon service would therefore enable these females to receive that instruction which otherwise seemed scarcely within their reach. I gave notice of such a service, and found it attract from its novelty; some attended who had not been at church for years, and I had the satisfaction of seeing them continue their attendance. I explained my motive for establishing this additional duty, and many of the poor women expressed themselves very gratefully for this consideration of their circumstances. It also communicated an impulse to the male part of the population, and those who could have attended the morning service but did not, began to come

to church more frequently and regularly than they had previously done.

"The bounty of one of my predecessors had founded and endowed a free school; this had shared in the general neglect that prevailed. The master, grown old and infirm, made his appointment almost a sinecure; I proposed that he should resign upon an arrangement with his successor, informing him that if he did not comply, he must render the school efficient. His successor engaged to find him a cottage and garden, I added to it pasturage for a cow during the summer; he acceded and enjoyed his retirement many years. I allowed the active young man who succeeded him to take an additional number of scholars, that the extra emolument might make it worth his while to stay in the situation, and exert himself in it; he has conducted it with great success.

"The cottagers began to be eager to obtain admission into this school for their children, but as the number of free scholars is limited to twelve, those who could receive benefit from it bore no proportion to those who were excluded. I proposed to establish a Sunday School; it was cordially approved by many, but a difficulty arose how to obtain the funds. I stated the

situation of the parish to my patron; the duke approved the plan, remitted me fifty pounds towards its permanent establishment, and subscribed five pounds annually towards its maintenance. Encouraged by this I solicited assistance from all my parishioners who were above the rank of labourers; several expressed their doubts of its success, but none refused their contributions. Mr. and Mrs. Christie, though not in this parish, often find it convenient to attend our services, and cheerfully lent their assistance; I was then unmarried, and in many parts of my duty I should have severely felt the want of a female coadjutor, had not the active charity and aid of Mrs. Christie been freely dispensed to my relief.

"About two years after my induction I married. Mrs. Winston, you will recollect, is a clergyman's daughter; from her infancy she has been familiar with the wants of the poor, and the most effective means of contributing to their relief. She was prepared from her first arrival at Passy to co-operate with me in the discharge of my parochial duties; in some respects she was better prepared than myself for this undertaking. I had received the education esteemed the most proper for a clergyman, but my father being a

layman and dwelling in a country very thinly inhabited, I had had no opportunity of acquiring that practical knowledge of the various means of relieving the wants, assisting the endeavours, and removing the ignorance of the labouring classes, which is so useful in the exercise of our ministerial calling. Mrs. Winston, familiarized to these pastoral cares, immediately applied to their relief with a spirit and decision highly beneficial."

I remarked, that "I thought his limit too narrow; that the daughter of a clergyman or a benevolent Christian could alone prove a suitable companion for a minister, but that it was not necessary to confine it to the former."

"Every Christian," replied Winston, "will practise benevolence, and with your engagements the daughter of a pious layman may be as useful an helpmate as that of a clergyman, with my duties the case would be far otherwise; the clerical feeling which is imbibed by every member of a well regulated clergyman's family, and which Mrs. Winston largely possesses, has been most useful to me, and beneficial to my parish. Accustomed to all the demands of public duty, to the times, seasons, and peculiarities of our profession, she is prepared to anticipate every

circumstance which may lighten my burden. My daughter has grown up under the same discipline, and is prepared to bear a similar part. By their attentions I have often felt my labours so much alleviated, that I have thought that they take more than their share of the difficulties of my station.

"But to return to the means of practical improvement. My wife suggested to Mrs. Christie the establishment of a female benefit club; the latter approved, and Mr. Saxby, the vicar of Branceston, requested that his parishioners might be admitted to partake of its advantages. It is supported by small monthly subscriptions, and besides relief afforded during times of sickness, it has been productive of a harmony of feeling and kind sentiments, which bind all classes together in the best bonds. It has been equally beneficial to those who have given and those who have received from its funds, verifying the observation of our poet, 'the quality of mercy is such that it is twice blessed.'

"During all this time I had the satisfaction of finding my congregation at church continue increasing; the preacher who lectured at the meeting-house discontinued his exhortations; he said he only came in hope of doing good, that

the circumstances which had first induced him to attend were removed, and therefore he withdrew.

"I had frequently had occasion to observe how much the youth of a village are exposed to temptation on a Sunday evening from the want of something to engage their attention, and how frequently they are induced from mere listlessness to fall into practices or amusements quite unsuited to the day, and which often lead to the worst habits. At the beginning of my third summer, I opened the church on Sunday evenings at that hour which seemed least likely to interfere with those duties which necessarily attach to servants in an agricultural district. I have always been careful to confine this service to an hour's duration; I read a part of the prayers and explain in a very plain and familiar manner a portion of scripture, always illustrating it by frequent examples, and these drawn from the Bible as much as possible. In my first attempts I went through a course of lectures on the liturgy; the small number which then attended met in the chancel, they occupied a few forms, and I took my station at their head, as if I was the master of the family assembled for domestic worship. The service proved acceptable, and in a few

weeks the attendance increased so much, that the chancel would no longer hold it, and we were obliged to adjourn to the church.

"I had only intended it as a summer duty, but when that season had passed away I received an application from some of the inhabitants, chiefly the farmers, who thought it had been useful in preserving their servants from many evils to which they had before been exposed, to continue the lectures during the winter, and engaging to find candles at their own expense. I could not but be gratified by this expression of approval of my labours, and disposition to receive instruction; I joyfully complied."

I inquired what course of instruction he had found most beneficial for such a service.

He answered, "when I had finished the explanation of the liturgy, I went through the homilies, making a few remarks on each, relative to the circumstances of the church at the period of their publication, and the particular views of the reformers; when I had finished these, I commented on the gospels and then the epistles, as selected for our communion service. The Sunday lessons furnished me with subjects for a long period; since then I have again gone over the liturgy and homilies.

"In this duty I have always adopted the paraphrastic mode of instruction, drawing conclusions and making a suitable application. I think no part of our Sabbath engagements has been more beneficial; from a careful review of my labours I feel convinced that the explanatory is the most useful method of teaching the lower classes, which always form the largest and most important part of our flocks. A subject discussed in a sermon through all its bearings, is far from being best suited to them; they have not the education necessary to enable them to follow such a course, nor to understand operations and deductions never exemplified to them in their limited sphere of action; nor have they the habit of investigation required to derive the greatest profit from that sort of teaching. Read to them a larger portion of scripture, explain it clearly and familiarly, illustrate it by examples, show the consequences and apply them to their consciences; instruction administered in this form will be remembered and reflected upon during the week, whilst engaged in their respective occupations, and the effects will be evident."

I hinted that I thought our Savionr had powerfully sanctioned this mode of teaching

by his own practice during his ministry on earth.

"I am decidedly of that opinion," returned the rector, "almost all his instructions seem to have originated from or to have been connected with present circumstances. In that beautiful discourse on the Mount, the most perfectly detailed of any of his recorded addresses, there is scarcely a sentence which does not appear to have been suggested by something present; the immediate and familiar improvement of which was calculated to make a powerful and permanent impression on his auditors."

"I cannot but admire," said I, "the facility with which you appear to have given effect to your different plans for the improvement and advantage of your flock and the success that has attended your exertions."

"It has been far greater," replied the rector, than I could have reasonably expected. Many circumstances proved favourable, and I regard them as providential interferences for the blessing both of the pastor and his people. Perhaps too the change appears to you greater than it really is. Immoral families are yet to be found in Passy, as in other places. I reprove, exhort, and admonish these, patiently, repeatedly, and

affectionately; my endeavours are variously received—sometimes with attention, more frequently with silence and indifference, I desire to be thankful that I can add, never with rudeness, and that my labours amongst those who appeared most hopeless have not been entirely without success, and I cherish a hope that a more abundant blessing will yet be granted me. The husbandman bearing precious seed may go forth weeping, but the seed shall not be sown in vain. It shall prosper in that to which it is sent and bring forth fruit to the praise of our Redeemer. After the greatest vigilance and closest investigation, we remain very ignorant of the real state of our flocks. This is only known to the great searcher of hearts; could we see as he sees, how many splendid professors whom we are apt to regard as lights in the world, would be evident as deceived themselves and deceiving others, and how far more numerous would be that class of humble, fearful, and modest disciples, who shunning the gaze of men, walk humbly and submissively before their God all their days, serving him with fervour of heart; whose light though bright as that of a candle, is obscured and hidden by the narrowness of the sphere in which they move; placed as it were

under a bed or bushel, it is hardly known or perceived, but still it exists and shines in its contracted circle, and shall be approved in that day when God shall bring secret things to light."

CHAPTER XII.

THE confinement imposed upon me by my scholastic engagements had induced me to adopt a practice of rising and walking early. I was indulging myself one morning with this exercise, and had proceeded a short distance beyond the extremity of the village, when I felt myself invited by the appearance of a retired road, to deviate from the one I was pursuing, and which being more public, was less suited to my taste for privacy. It was bounded on each side by a beautiful but inartificial avenue of elms, a sort of trees rather unusual in this country. It brought me to a low-built house, whose walls of grey stone, steep heavy slated roof, and small windows, declared it to be of ancient structure. As I approached, I found all access intercepted by a wide moat, only passable by a drawbridge, which was raised, as if the inhabitants were expecting and guarding against a surprise.

The moat extended itself around the habitation, enclosing about two acres of land, as nearly as I could judge. Its external bank was level

and covered with grass, mown and kept in the nicest order: without this was a steep bank of earth, of moderate height, which sloped off very gradually on its outer side, and whose summit was planted with a neatly cut holly hedge. The whole presented a lively resemblance of the covert way and glacis of a fortification, where the hollies seemed to supply the place of the palisadoes.

The waters of the moat were deep, but clear as chrystal, and partially covered by the large spreading leaves of the lotus, whose beautiful flowers just raised their heads above its surface.

The opposite bank was level. It was laid out as a lawn, quite plain and exquisitely neat. It seemed in perfect accordance with the building behind it. The centre of this presented a portico, formed by two square towers and a chamber placed between them. The arch which supported the latter was closed by heavy folding doors. Whilst I was contemplating the scene before me, I heard their ponderous bolts drawn back, and saw them slowly opened by two men, who then proceeded to let down the drawbridge and restore the communication of the inhabitants of this singular mansion with those of the neighbourhood.

The house extended itself on either side of the portico to other square towers, which flanked the corners: all these were higher than the building to which they were attached—were looped and embattled, and evidently intended for defence rather than ornament. The space on each side was occupied by an extension of the lawn; behind were a few venerable oaks, whose appearance indicated that they had occupied the soil at a very remote period. Several large walnut trees were placed irregularly in the fields on either side, whose branches were tenanted by a numerous rookery. The clamorous and continued movements of these birds gave life to the scene, yet of that sort which harmonized with the peaceful retirement in which the whole was placed.

The romantic feelings to which I am naturally inclined, and which years of labour have not extinguished, presented this to my mind as the dwelling place of peace and comfort. It seemed to contain in itself all that was necessary for calm and tranquil repose, whilst the moat, the tower, and defences served to remind the occupiers of the dangers and troubles of former times, sufficiently to give a higher zest to those enjoyments which we now derive from quiet

and security. The contemplative spectator could hardly fail to consider the blessings of a period when the strong arm of equal justice, supported by a mild but vigorous constitutional government has rendered a cottage safer than a castle in former ages.

I returned to the Rectory, captivated with my new discovery, and longing to know who were the inhabitants and what was their history, and not without a desire that some such retreat, and near such a friend as Winston, might receive me and mine from the labours of my calling.

I found the family ready for breakfast—my discovery became the immediate subject of conversation.

"That," said Miss Winston, "is one of the most interesting spots in this neighbourhood. The inhabitants are as peculiarly amiable as they have been unfortunate:—you would be charmed with their kindness, intelligence, and simplicity; but their history is as painful as it is singular."

"Then, as usual," I replied, "I have been deceiving myself:—that place seemed so suited to the calm repose of a Christian and philosopher after a stormy and tempestuous passage, that I

felt the difficulty of suppressing a desire to solace my weary limbs and nurse my enfeebled constitution in that captivating retreat."

"It is very similarly occupied at present," said Mrs. Winston, "only the sorrows of the family already there have been more afflicting than yours, and so uncommon, that the narrative would look like a romance."

I cannot repeat these with the feeling and interest with which my friend related them; but in simple detail they were as follows.

Mr. Hale, the present occupier, by the death of his father when he was an infant, was left entirely unprovided for. A wealthy uncle, who was a batchelor, undertook the care of him; he received him with kindness; gave him an excellent education, and sent him to the university. His conduct corresponded with his uncle's affectionate treatment. He pursued his studies with ardour, and gratified his relative by the literary honours he obtained.

When he quitted the university he expressed a desire to go into the church; but as his relation and protector disapproved, he relinquished it. "I have been," said his uncle, "as a parent to you, you must be to me in the place of a son. I am growing in years, my infirmities

increase—you must be the stay of my old age." Mr. Hale found no difficulty in complying with this request. He remained, exerting himself to make every return which the kindness of the one invited, or the gratitude of the other suggested.

More than two years had passed away, when his relative proposed to him to build a cottage in the park, near the house. "You will like to marry," said his uncle; "I cannot bear to hear children cry, I have not been used to it; a neat pretty cottage will suffice for you and your wife, whilst I live; you can invite your friends to the hall, I can see you daily, and the children if they wont cry, and when I die you can remove into the hall, and the cottage will serve you for a nursery." The kindness of this intention was fully appreciated by the nephew. The plan was marked out—the cottage begun to be built, and the ground planted. During these operations it would have been difficult to say which of the two seemed most interested. As the edifice advanced, the old gentleman repeatedly warned his nephew "to have the bird ready by the time the cage should be finished."

The gratification which young Hale necessarily felt at the interest taken by his uncle in his future happiness was occasionally interrupted

by the supposition that the latter had some lady in view, whom he would propose to him to make his wife, and whom he might not wish to have in that relation. He had too great confidence in the affection of his benefactor to believe that he would persist in urging him to enter into a connexion which he saw would be disagreeable; but he was aware how differently the young and the old consider and judge of such affairs, and he anticipated the pain which both parties would suffer from any thing like disagreement; but a short time served to remove his apprehension.

The cottage and its appendages were nearly completed, and they were returning towards the hall, the squire supporting himself on his nephew's arm, when, after a silence somewhat longer than usual, he said, "William, I have long wished to see you married, and have been preparing for it—you seem in no haste—there is one article I cannot prepare—my time must be short."

"Really, Sir," replied the nephew, "I am in no haste to leave you even for the short distance of this cottage, where, as I hope we shall long be neighbours. But as you so kindly press my settlement, I will just ask you whether a con-

nexion with the Cecils would receive your approbation?"

Long as he had meditated and even wished this change in his nephew's circumstances, the immediate view of it produced a strong effect upon his whole frame. He halted, took firmer hold of his supporter, drew a shorter breath, and at length stammered rather than spoke, "William, I have never wished to influence your choice, I think you are generally prudent; in a measure of so much importance to your future happiness, you will not take any step without due consideration. I know Mr. Cecil well—a good man and well informed. Mrs. Cecil—those who can judge of a woman better than I can, say she is a clever and sensible lady. A daughter of such parents, brought up under their own eye, and with their example always before her, will be likely to make you an excellent wife. The Cecils cannot be affluent, the family is large, and though he is liberal to others, he is said to be severely economical to himself. It is of no import; I can supply your wants, and when I die you will have enough."

The intercourse which had previously subsisted with the Cecils now ripened into an inti-

macy; a closer acquaintance was productive of stronger attachment, and William Hale was married to Tryphena Cecil very shortly after the Cottage was furnished for her reception.

Here they lived nearly ten years, the old man showing them all the kindness of a parent and they returning it with every assiduity and affection which could relieve the sufferings of his latter days, and these were many and severe under a painful and protracted decay.

When the last scene of mortality was over William Hale was proceeding to show every mark of respect to his departed relative, when he was visited by his late uncle's steward; he wished to decline seeing him till after the funeral. He had not looked at any of his uncle's private papers, and wished to avoid every interference with his property until the last honours should have been paid to his remains. But the steward persevered so obstinately in his request that he was obliged to comply; they were no sooner alone than the former told him that many years before, when an unhappy difference existed between his father and his uncle, the latter had made a will, in which he had bequeathed all his property, both real and personal to another

nephew; that he had heard him many years before express his intention of revoking this will and making a very different one; but that he had not done so, and therefore that testament was still in force.

"Where is it?" asked Mr. Hale.

The steward delivered it to him; he read it and found the statement correct. It immediately occurred to him that the former might have corresponded with the legatee, he therefore inquired "are you authorized to act for Mr. Robert Hale?"

"No," replied the steward, "he is totally ignorant of the existence of this document. All the witnesses are long since dead; no man alive, besides you and myself, have any knowledge of it. I dare say Mr. Robert Hale has no expectation whatever from his uncle; you know they never met or corresponded; you are most likely to know your uncle's latest intentions; if they have been different from these, there need not be any obstacle to their completion."

"This," resumed Mr. Hale, "is my uncle's will, and however different it may be from my expectations, unless a later one can be produced it shall be strictly abided by. I will keep it till

Mr. Robert Hale arrives; in the mean time I will act for him on my own responsibility, as circumstances may require.

"I wish to observe," interrupted the steward, who had been brought up, and always acted as Mr. Hale's lawyer, with great apparent anxiety, "that I have put the will into your hands. No one has seen it for more than twenty years, except myself; the witnesses, as I before stated, are all long since dead; no one can say that a will was ever made; if that was not brought forward you would be the heir at law, at least to all the real estate; everybody expects you to have all; it will be a sad thing that they should be disappointed."

"That disappointment," resumed Mr. Hale, "is not so likely to be felt by any one as by myself, and cannot possibly concern you; I beg you will depart, I will take care to do the needful."

"I do not doubt, Sir," returned the man of business, "but if I wish to serve you faithfully as I have served your uncle, you ought not to be displeased; I am sure nobody expects such a will as this, and particularly the tenants."

"Sir," replied Mr. Hale, "the expectation of

the world is no concern of mine, I must request you to depart."

"If you order me to retire," said the steward, "I must comply, but I am sure your poor uncle would be sadly distressed if he could see how his property is disposed of."

"I can only know," said the other, "what my uncle intended by what he has recorded, and that shall be strictly abided by."

The agent withdrew, much distressed at the line of conduct which he now perceived would be pursued, and much vexed that he had not destroyed the will, and concealed his having done so.

Here the word villain involuntarily escaped me, but having made the interruption, I proceeded to inquire what "could he have seen in your neighbour to induce him to expect that he would have shared the guilt of such a transaction?"

"I think," replied the rector, "he neither considered himself as suggesting a dishonest act to another, nor as inclined to do a wrong thing himself. He was strongly attached to his employer, and being a man of not very clear judgment, considered what he knew to have been

intention of the deceased as the rule by which he ought to have acted; I have heard him speak of the affair more than once, and he always lamented it as most unfortunate. He knew the will was made under the impulse of anger; the late Mr. Hale had several times declared his intention of destroying it, but had never ordered him to bring it for that purpose; on the other hand, he had often heard him speak of his nephew William as his successor, and was assured, as were most others, that he intended it. The circumstance of fulfilling what he knew to be the intention of his old master, outweighed every other consideration. With Hale it was far different; his clear and strong mind immediately saw the iniquity of such a transaction, and without allowing time to warp or influence his judgment, he dispatched an express to his cousin, announcing his uncle's death, and stating the contents of his will. He then, as agent to the legatee, proceeded to bury the deceased with every testimony of respect, attending the funeral as chief mourner."

"A character which very properly belonged to him," observed Mr. Robert Winston.

"Certainly," said his father; "but I think, my dear Robert, you have heard me say that I

never heard him speak of his uncle but in terms of the most affectionate regard, and in the settlement of the affairs with his successor he displayed that spirit of equity and moderation which attached that gentleman most firmly to him, and he has remained his steadfast friend ever since."

"It is most honourable," said Mrs. Winston, "that under such circumstances a friendly feeling should subsist between Mr. Hale and his relative, and it has been nobly maintained by both parties."

"No rational motive," I observed, "can be assigned why it should not, but observation of the common conduct of men in similar circumstances would lead us to expect that disappointment in the one, and the sense of its being felt in the other, would exclude confidence, if not harmony."

"In most it would," replied Mrs. Winston, "but the faithful integrity of Mr. Hale so impressed the mind of his cousin, who is also a man of great worth, that he conceived the highest respect for him, and wished to testify it by every means in his power. He requested him to continue at the cottage, and name any income he wished to have assigned to him,

promising that it should be immediately secured to him and his son after him. This the other positively declined. He desired permission to retain the furniture, which he considered as having been personally given to him. This of course was immediately acceded to, with a request that he would say how he could show his esteem for him. He replied, 'Had I inherited my uncle's property, I had intended to provide for those servants who have grown old in his employment: you have not had the same experience of their worth—may I be permitted to recommend them to your care.' This prayer was fully complied with."

"But to what did Mr. Hale apply himself?" I asked.

"He determined," said the rector, "to be dependant on no one whilst God gave him the means of providing for himself and family by his own exertions. He felt grateful to his almighty Benefactor, who having inclined his uncle to give him an excellent education, had furnished him with resources which would enable him to maintain the same scale in society to which he had been accustomed. To employ these in the education of youth now became his depend-

ance. The active exertions of his friends promised him a sufficient number of pupils as soon as he could find a suitable place to receive them. The premises you have just visited were then upon sale, and he agreed for the purchase of them. He had not the money, but to doubt his cousin's readiness to accommodate him with the loan, he felt would be an act of great injustice to him. He stated his request with the frankness which is familiar to liberal and upright minds. It was met by a solicitation that he would accept it. This was declined with the same firmness as the preceding kind offer. The loan was granted, and in a few months Mr. Hale entered upon a course of employment which has been mutually beneficial to himself and many youths who now fill honourable stations in society."

"Did he find this place in its present state?" I asked.

"No," replied Mrs. Winston; "it was quite out of repair: the moat nearly choaked up, and the area enclosed by it a wilderness of confusion and disorder. The necessary repairs were done immediately; the improvements served him and Mrs. Hale as matter of recreation for a long

time, and in conjunction with other circumstances, have fixed them to the place, which I think they will not quit till they die."

"I hope," said I, "the subsequent events of their history have been such as fully to compensate their former disappointment, and amply to reward Mr. Hale for the integrity with which he acted, and the independence which he displayed."

"Indeed," answered Mrs. Winston, "his troubles did not terminate when he left ——. He then had a son and two daughters; the eldest of the latter sunk to her grave in her eighteenth year, after a long and painful illness, borne with Christian patience and resignation. At her own request, she was interred on the lawn to the west side of the house. The sycamore marks her grave. The surviving children were rising to maturity, with a promise of gratifying every hope of their parents, when an unhappy impression made on the mind of their son, gave birth to a train of consequences which have completed their afflictions.

"When he was about fourteen years old, he accidentally met with Voltaire's History of Charles XII.; the romantic adventures of that prince captivated a mind naturally warm and

86138

ardent. He resolved to become a soldier, and hinted his wish to his parents: these so fully and rationally explained to him their objections to a military life, that he became convinced he could never obtain their consent to engage in it. He did not relinquish his intention, but resolved to wait till circumstances should prove favourable. He silently cherished a scheme which was only imparted to his sister. She conceived that time would dispel the illusion under which he was labouring, and make his plans more conformable to his parents' wishes. Observing this, he forbore talking with her upon the subject. He read history with great assiduity, and entered into the military details with great interest. His father often remarked how clearly he understood all the movements recorded by the Greek and Roman historians, which were daily read in his establishment, but never suspected the real motive which stimulated him to this extraordinary attention. At length the mania seemed to prevail with a force which he could not repel. He again solicited his father with earnestness to permit him to become a soldier—openly professed his choice to his fellow pupils, and talked of arms with enthusiasm. Finding his father firm, and seeing his sister,

whose health had began to decline as the deceased one's had previously done, deeply affected by his perseverance in this choice, he again refrained from speaking on the subject, and it was hoped that he had relinquished every idea of the kind.

"He had just completed his seventeenth year, when he took the resolution of quitting his father's house and enlisting in the army. He left a letter behind him, requesting his parents not to make themselves uneasy about him, that he would write to them as soon as he had obtained a commission; an event which he was confident would soon occur, and which would lead him to fame and fortune.

"He took his measures so well as to elude all pursuit, and succeeded in making his way to a western port, where a regiment was then lying under orders of embarkation for America. He enlisted into it as a private soldier.

"His appearance, so different from that of a common recruit, attracted the notice of his captain, who found little difficulty in extracting from him the whole of the circumstances. With equal kindness to the lad and tenderness to his parents, he urged him to return home, promising him that he would obtain his discharge, if he would engage to go back to his father: this he

declined, and when the colonel, to whom the captain related the particulars, made a similar offer, it was refused with equal obstinacy. The colonel then wrote to Mr. Hale, stating the case, and adding, that an ensigncy was then vacant in the regiment, that he had written to the agent by the same post to secure it for his son, and that it should not be disposed of until his decision was known; that the regiment was then embarked, and would probably have sailed before he could receive that letter; but he assured him that he would act towards his son as kindly as circumstances would permit.

"The immediate effect of this rash and disobedient step was to involve the family in the deepest affliction, which was rendered yet more acute by the shock which it gave to the delicate constitution of his only surviving sister. Hence originated a train of sufferings which terminated in her death about seven months afterwards.

"The parents determined not to make this imprudence worse by any rash severity on their part. Mr. Hale felt certain that a short period would be sufficient to convince his son of the folly of his choice, and induce him to a wiser determination. He felt all a father's anxiety to preserve him during that period from the conta-

mination of low company. He therefore lost no time in writing to the agent, to secure the advantage kindly offered by the colonel; and young Hale had scarcely arrived in America before the commission reached him.

"Mr. Hale's anticipation was realized. His son soon felt the difference between the reality of service and what he had pictured to his imagination. He had expected to find in his brother officers men inflamed with the love of military glory, and ardent in the pursuit of it; that he would have to run the race of honourable service with men ready to brave every danger, and despise every difficulty to serve their country or gain distinction. Instead of this he found the greater part of them dissipated young men, whose idleness or follies had rendered them unfit for any other profession, and whose zeal for the service, if any such existed, was prompted by the selfish hope of promotion and better pay. Even the best officers in the corps seemed to serve from a principle of regard to their private advantage; and in no case did he find that disinterested military spirit which he esteemed as the true principle of a soldier, and without which he thought no rank in the service could be honourable. Naturally frank and open, he had expressed

himself on this subject with a freedom that had exposed him to much ridicule, and as there was then no prospect of a continuance of warlike operations, he could anticipate little beyond the tedium of routine duty in a colony, with companions whose habits promised him neither instruction or amusement. Even the opportunity of improving himself by private study seemed denied him, in a land in which the means of literary advancement were not to be obtained. He felt himself placed in a situation where, for years, he could only expect to exist in a state rather resembling vegetation than that life of activity and exertion in which it had been his ambition to excel.

"Rash and precipitate as his conduct had been, he too truly estimated his father's character to seek advice, or repose his confidence elsewhere. His communications were as frank as his confessions, and accompanied by a sincere contrition for his past misconduct. The latter was rendered more bitter by the information he received of the effect his elopement had had on his sister's health, and the probable result of it: all concurred to make him desirous of returning home, and submitting his future destination to the better judgment of his parents.

"Whilst he was making these communications, a complete change of affairs had taken place in Europe. Napoleon had quitted his little monarchy of Elba, with a handful of troops, to conquer the mighty domains of France, and Europe was again involved in war. Hale's regiment received orders to return home on the same day that he was informed of the termination of his sister's sufferings.

"It was well known that the regiments from America would be ordered to the Netherlands as soon as they arrived in this country, to assist in the war intended to replace Louis XVIII. on the throne of France. Mr. Hale was anxious to have an interview with his son, if possible, before his departure for that destination. The fleet with these regiments arrived at St. Helen's, but not being permitted to land, young Hale wrote to his father to inform him of the circumstance; the latter crossed the country with the greatest speed, but arrived too late. Sailing orders had come down a few hours before, and the wind being fair, they had put to sea immediately. Mr. Hale reached the harbour in time to see the ships in the offing, in one of which his son was embarked, and returned home under a disap-

pointment more easily conceived than expressed.

"Cecil Hale arrived in Flanders in time to share the dangers and honours of the field of Waterloo, and where he was thrice wounded; he afterwards marched with his battalion into France. It was understood that the latter would soon be recalled and reduced, an event which he eagerly anticipated, as affording him an honourable opportunity of retiring from the service. It was late in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifteen before the order arrived, and in the depth of winter his regiment was embarked for Ireland.

"These transports had made the south coast of that country when a violent storm arose, and during the following night three of them were wrecked; only twenty-five men and four officers were saved. Cecil Hale was one of those that perished.

"This seemed to close the train of calamities which had so long urged their course against our worthy neighbours; exercised in the school of adversity, this last and severest affliction was borne with a patience and resignation which proved how much their former trials had been

sanctified. 'Dark as this Providence appears,' said Mr. Hale, 'which closes all our hopes of comfort in our old age, as far as it might have been administered by our children, I know it is a dispensation of mercy. We may go down to the grave a desolate old couple, but if God makes his light to shine upon us, all will be well. I can never sufficiently thank him that this calamity was reserved to a time which allowed my dear boy space to repent of his disobedience and rebellion, I confidently hope to meet him in that world where alone true glory and happiness are to be found.' Neither he nor Mrs. Hale gave way to that spirit of grief and lamentation which is so frequently indulged under similar deprivations, and which tends rather to increase than soften affliction. Their fortitude and strength of mind were eminently displayed. Little incidents against which they were not prepared, often drew forth actions or expressions which testified the severity of their trouble, yet these were as instantly repressed by a meek and quiet spirit, submissive to the will of their heavenly Father, and confiding in his truth and goodness. From our long intimacy we felt no difficulty in approaching them without regard to the form and etiquette usually observed on such occasions,

and our attentions were acceptable. These furnished us with opportunities of making the most familiar observations on their conduct, which evinced the truly Christian temperament I have just noticed.

" Mr. Hale immediately relinquished his scholastic employment. 'A little,' he observed, 'would suffice for the wants of himself and wife, and yet enable them to contribute something to the relief of others.' "

I replied, " I think Mr. Hale must blame himself for having adopted alterations and regulations likely to encourage his son's martial propensities."

" These originated with his son, not himself," observed Mr. Winston. " When the old wooden bridge was decayed, Cecil wished a drawbridge to be substituted; I thought that and the covert way, which he also suggested, so much in unison with the general character of the place, that I supported his ideas, and his father complied. After the bridge was finished, he daily attended the raising and lowering it with a soldier-like punctuality; no one then considered him as doing anything more than indulging the playful spirit of a youthful mind. After his departure, his sister found a melan-

choly pleasure in repeating whatever had been interesting to him; she watched this operation from her window to her dying day, and the old servants, who were strongly attached to both, have continued this tribute of respectful remembrance.

CHAPTER XIII.

It happened one morning during my visit to Passy, that soon after breakfast the younger members of the family, together with some of their neighbours, repaired to the school-house, where the children then attached to the Sunday school had assembled. A formal examination took place of their respective merits as to conduct, improvement, and regularity of attendance; when this was satisfactorily adjusted, they were marched in order to the mansion, attended by their kind friends who laboured so assiduously for their welfare.

I accompanied my host and his lady there, and found preparations had been made to entertain this part of the youthful population of Passy.

It was the anniversary of the first institution of the school, and which its patrons regularly celebrated by a sort of festivity calculated to impress the minds of the scholars with a love for the school, and a sense of some immediate benefit arising from their attendance on it.

As they drew near the mansion, Mr. and Mrs. Christie, accompanied by several of their friends

who had come there for the purpose of giving their encouragement to the festival, repaired to some seats placed under a large spreading elm at a short distance from the house; thither the procession directed its march, and on its arrival placed itself in order before the company. The master of the school made a report of the general state of it, and particularized several whose good conduct and diligence were most deserving of notice.

When he had concluded, my friend, the rector, addressed this part of his flock. He commended those whose attention and order had been so highly spoken of, explained to all the certain advantages that would accrue to them in after life from such habits, warned them to improve the opportunities now given them, reminded them of the benefits which many who had left the school were now deriving from it, showed the blessing of being enabled to read the scriptures and the comfort derived from it by one of their number, whose happy death in the course of the preceding year was known to them all, and concluded by a short but very appropriate prayer for the patrons, teachers, and pupils.

When he had concluded, the names of those

who had been before commended by the master, were repeated by one of the young Christies, who stood by his mother. As these were called over they advanced; the first was a boy, he received a neatly bound Bible, of a large octavo size, from the lady of the mansion; the second was a girl, who received a similar reward from her husband; others succeeded and were honoured with marks of favour from the other patrons.

As any person had been permitted to enter the grounds, a number perhaps exceeding one hundred was gathered around, most of these were connected in some way with the children whose benefit was the object now desired. Their presence served to increase the stimulus which this festival was intended to create, and what they saw and felt conduced in its turn to urge them diligently to consider and promote the welfare of their young ones.

Whilst this was going on, a substantial dinner of old English fare, roast beef and plumb pudding, had been provided under some trees at a short distance; thither the young people were now conducted. When it was finished the spectators withdrew; the villagers to their respective homes, the patrons to the mansion or adjacent

grounds, and the children to partake of such innocent sports and amusements as the kind attention of Mr. and Mrs. Christie had provided for them.

But the good will of the latter was not yet exhausted; when the gradual neglect of more active sports announced that the spirit of play was yielding to a sense of fatigue, and the formation of little groupes reclining or sitting under the shade of trees, gave evident signs of a disposition for repose, the sound of a French horn suddenly roused them again to activity, and they were immediately collected under the same trees where they had dined, to partake of tea, bread and butter, and plain cake; never did I see a collection of happier faces than were then before me, nor ones more expressive of real pleasure than those who enjoyed the scene to which they were contributors. When this repast was ended they repaired to the elm first mentioned, and united in singing the evening Hymn, after which they dispersed to their several homes.

CHAPTER XIV.

THERE is something very interesting in an assemblage of orderly, well-trained children enjoying a holiday. Those innocent sports and amusements which contribute to their health and recreation, and at the same time promote that exuberance of mirth and those playful energies which are so suited to their years, rarely fail to revive in the spectators recollections of a pleasing nature—years long since over and gone return upon them—the feelings of their past childhood recur with force, and they become as happy in the contemplation, as the infants are in the exercise of their youthful frolics.

As this annual festival was well known in the neighbourhood, several of the families in the vicinity took their morning ride towards the mansion, at the same time to pay their respects to the esteemed owners of it and contemplate the pastimes then exhibited. These forming themselves into parties, walked in different directions about the grounds immediately adjacent, and added much variety to the scene.

Under the guidance of Mr. Christie, I directed my steps towards a rising ground a little distance from the mansion, with a view to contemplate the movements of the parties from its summit, which crowned by a few old and picturesque trees afforded a pleasant shade. We found our intention anticipated by some others, consisting of my friend the rector, Mr. Hale, whose eventful history has been the subject of a preceding chapter; another gentleman, whose name was Llewellyn; and a Mr. Saville, whom I afterwards found to be a neighbouring magistrate, and active in the discharge of the important duties of that appointment.

Mr. Saville was engaged in maintaining that the extension of education among the poor however gratifying it might be to the best feelings of those who participated in it, was inimical to the interests of society. Though an excellent magistrate, I found he was one of those who had imbibed a principle once prevalent, but now generally and happily exploded—that ignorance is the parent of obedience, and that the only method to ensure the submission of the inferior ranks of society is to deprive them of those instructions which might enable them to rise above it. "I do not doubt," said he to the

rector, "the benevolence of your intentions, and those of your coadjutors, but consider the effect your exertions will have on society; these children are all taught to read, their future masters and mistresses will not be able to lay down a letter or a memorandum but they will become acquainted with its contents, and many particulars of which it is the interest of the former that they should be ignorant. All that have inclination and can find time to come to the evening school which you have attached to your Sunday school, you teach writing and arithmetic; the former spoils them for being servants, and the latter raises them above their station. Every one of them will say, 'Why should I continue in service? I can keep accounts, I will be a clerk;' and so they become saucy and independent, and society is injured, perhaps it will be finally subverted, by these ill-advised though well intentioned measures."

"I think," answered Mr. Llewellyn, "your apprehensions arise from having only partially considered the subject. If all the lower orders are qualified for clerk's places, they cannot all obtain them, because their universal qualification will not add one to the number of such appointments; when these are filled, those who remain

disengaged must take themselves to different employments such as they can find, and for these their superior qualifications will certainly make them more desirable. I have never felt inconvenience from my servant being better, though I have suffered from his being worse qualified than I wanted."

"But," replied the magistrate, "what made him worse? Was it not his being too wise for his station, which made him a spy upon and dissatisfied with his master?"

"No, indeed," replied Mr. Llewellyn, "my complaints of servants have never originated from that cause. All my letters or papers of business I think it my duty to preserve with care; and those which are merely complimentary or engagements of pleasure may be read by them or any other; that will never injure any one. I have found the vices, not the knowledge, of my dependants my trouble, and the effect of instruction, if properly directed, is to teach men to be sober, faithful, and diligent. Education, as it raises the subject of it above the effects of ignorance, so it tends to encourage those qualities essential to the formation of a good servant.

"The result which you apprehend," continued Mr. Llewellyn, "of the lower ranks being

raised above their station can only take place even partially, whilst the diffusion of education is partial; when all of that class shall have received the rudiments of a common education, they will be put upon nearly the same level as if they had been left in ignorance, as far as respects their claims of preferment. As regards society, those amongst them who possess great abilities will have that gross ignorance removed, and which presents the only insuperable barrier to their advancement; the means of farther instruction are easy to those who, having gained the first principles of learning, have talents and energy to pursue it; and how much is the general welfare of mankind promoted by giving such men an opportunity to exercise their abilities, which though employed for their private advantage, must benefit the public? Why are the comforts of society, and moderate prosperity more generally diffused in this than in any other country, but because every sort of talent, in every rank of life, is more easily exercised here than elsewhere?"

"I will only make one observation," said the rector, "the truth of which I think our worthy friend will admit, even in spite of the dislike which he feels to our practice. As accountable beings, he will allow that it is of the utmost im-

portance that all should have the means of becoming acquainted with the will of that God on whom we are dependant, and by whom we are to be judged. This equally concerns the rich and the poor man; the latter, therefore, as well as the former, ought to be enabled to read the scriptures; from them he learns to know the will of his heavenly master, and it is absurd to suppose that a man will do his duty worse because he knows it better; or that fearing God, he will be less careful so to serve his master as to please God."

"I will not admit that," said Mr. Saville, "our servants, when ignorant, did their duty and never thought about it, and that is much better than being full of notions of it, and never doing it."

"I grant," said Mr. Llewellyn, "that if a man knows his duty and does not do it, he is a worse man in every relation of life than another, who being ignorant of the principles of it, falls, how you do not explain, into the practice of it; but such an occurence is beyond all expectation, a man who should depend upon it would be deemed insane. I might say a man who is no mechanic may be supposed, by mere accident, to have constructed a watch or other nice piece

of machinery, which correctly answered its intention; it is possible, but it would be very marvellous, and never could be expected to occur a second time; and I believe, upon the assurance that such a man had done so, neither you nor any other would be prevailed upon to employ him for a similar purpose, when you could have the services of a well taught and able mechanic. The latter, you would say, has the principles and knowledge of his art, I can depend upon him; the other is ignorant, and it would be absurd in me to trust him. Your untaught servant may do his duty to you, but he has neither principles to influence, nor rule to guide him; on the contrary, he who is instructed in his religious duties, like the skilful mechanic, is entitled to your confidence, because he is wise in his holy calling."

"All mechanics," interposed the magistrate, "do not act upon the same principles; there are a variety of religions and good men to be found in all of them; some do not allow the Bible, therefore it is not requisite that all should read it."

"It seems very extraordinary," replied Mr. Winston, "if the Bible is not necessary that God should have revealed it. In all his works we observe the greatest economy, nothing bestowed or employed in vain, and these displays of his

power are exerted without difficulty or danger to any of his creatures. But if your argument is true, not only has God made a revelation of himself and his will which is superfluous, but he has commanded the knowledge of it to be propagated throughout the world at the greatest hazard; and of those who have been thus engaged, many have done it to the loss of their comfort and even life, believing that so doing they were fulfilling the command of its divine author, who evidently requires such fidelity of them, promises to reward those who are faithful unto death, and declares that those who draw back, by so doing, incur perdition."

"Your reasoning is strong," returned Mr. Saville, "and I do not mean to deny that the Bible may be necessary to some, who may sufficiently explain it to produce a good effect upon others; but when the comforts of life are at stake, and we see good men of all religions, some of whom only thus impart its contents through the medium of teachers privileged for that purpose, we ought to be satisfied, and careful how we risk our advantages."

Mr. Hale here inquired whether the worthy magistrate did not speak rather more extensively than he had intended. "Moral men," he ob-

served, "are occasionally found among all professions, but the religion of the Gospel alone can be relied on to make good men. All religions may be considered as true or false, a classification which will simplify the consideration of the subject, and facilitate the necessary deductions from it."

"I believe," said Mr. Christie, "this will be found a very correct mode of estimating this subject. If it was generally examined on the principles of truth or falsehood, our conclusions would be more easily and certainly drawn than is generally the case. Erroneous practices would be more readily detected and of course more speedily relinquished."

"I cannot admit your deduction even upon your own suppositions," replied Mr. Saville; "truth has been pursued for ages, but I believe we are yet very far from the discovery. We shall dispute for ages yet to come, nor do I think these, our worthy friends, will, in practice, abide by the confined rules they propose. I am sure Mr. Winston will not condemn as heretics all those who do not belong to his class of churchmen."

"Certainly not," replied Mr. Winston, "but how does this affect the argument? I am a

member of our national church not only because I believe her doctrines the most scriptural, but because I approve her forms and institutions as best suited to maintain the purity of the Gospel, and cause its influence to be felt amongst all ranks and orders of men. There are many who differ from me in the latter, whilst they agree with me in the former. There are others who admit all the really important points of the former, whilst, from the different effects, which will ever be produced, even by the same mode of reasoning in different minds, they variously modify their discipline, yet never omitting any thing essential, either in faith or practice. These are Christians walking by the same fundamental principles, though deviating in less important particulars. The king has soldiers in different corps and for different duties; they are all component parts of his army, and engaged in his service, though not in the same branch of it, nor perhaps clothed in the same uniform.'

"By what," asked Mr. Saville, "can we ascertain truth or falsehood? all sects and parties appeal to the same authority, Protestants, Papists, and schismatics, all defend their principles and practice from the Bible."

"No," said Mr. Hale, "Protestants appeal to the Bible only:—Catholics unite with it traditions, the authority of the church as administered by the Pope, the conclave, and councils; they appeal to pretended miracles, and by their aid endeavour to establish false doctrines and delusions. If you carefully examine these, and compare the spirit and practice of Popery with those of Hinduism, I think you will find little to prefer in the former."

"Surely," interrupted Mr. Saville, hastily, "you do not mean to compare Popery with Heathenism, even in its best form."

"I have frequently made the comparison," replied Mr. Llewellyn, "and I never made it without being astonished at the coincidence: you will perhaps be yet more surprised when I say, that the conclusion I draw is in favour of the disciples of Brahmah."

"Then I must maintain that your reasoning is on the face of it erroneous," said Mr. Saville, "the Roman Catholic is a Christian church, and therefore must be decidedly superior to Paganism. It may have adopted some absurdities, and these I have no inclination to defend."

"And if these should coincide with those of the Hindus, originate in the same principles

and produce the same effects?" said Mr. Llewellyn.

"Aye," rejoined Mr. Saville, "that *if* is a most important consideration. I deny that any Christian church can have adopted such principles, or have followed such practices as belong to heathen systems."

"If then," replied Mr. Llewellyn, "it can be proved that the Romanists have done both, you will no longer defend them?"

"Certainly not," returned the magistrate.

"Allow me to suggest," said Mr. Winston, "that true religion, being the offspring of a divine revelation, is from God; that false religion, being a human invention, originating from the darkness and corruption of fallen man, will participate in the feeling and delusion of the source from whence it springs. The former must of necessity exhibit a moral portrait of its Author; and, by a parity of reasoning, the latter will partake of the sinfulness of the inventor."

Mr. Saville having signified his wish that this should be stated a little more explicitly, Mr. Winston proceeded.

"True religion is the worship of God according to the revelation he has made of himself, his

will, his service, and his purposes. This represents his perfections in the display of his attributes, showing him full of love towards his creatures, whom he has made to share his happiness and partake of his glory. Holy, so that nothing sinful can approach him. Just and true, and therefore inexorable in requiring the penalties of the law, if broken:—that man transgressed this law, and so became subject to the sentence of it:—that he had then no hope of escaping punishment, but that the mercy of his Creator was displayed in all its fulness, influencing him to accept a vicarious sacrifice, that so he might be just and yet extend pardon to the guilty:—that the Son of God took upon him this office; and being born of a woman, became God manifest in the flesh:—that by his life and death a complete righteousness and redemption is provided for those who believe in him:—that these, sanctified by the Holy Spirit, become the children of God and heirs of his glory."

"This," observed Mr. Llewellyn, "accords with my view of the Gospel: the doctrines are singular, so much so, that had they not been revealed they not only could not have been discovered, but they could not have been conceived

by any created being: they must, therefore, be different in their effects from any doctrines invented or contrived by man."

"I admit these preliminaries," said Mr. Saville, "but I deny the consequences as far as regards your assertion of the equality of Hinduism and Popery."

"Every Christian church can only continue so by maintaining the pure worship of God," answered Mr. Winston; "any deviation from any essential doctrine, separates the society so offending from the church of Christ."

"I will admit that," returned the magistrate; "but still the light that remains in such a church will give her a superiority of practice over that of a religion founded in total darkness. Unless you can show the contrary, I shall doubt how far you can call certain articles 'essentials.'"

"The doctrine that all men are by nature sinners, and that none can be saved from the consequences of sin but by the righteousness and sacrifice of a Redeemer, if truly believed," said the Rector, "must be accompanied with great humility. The freedom with which pardon and grace are granted to every one who penitently and fervently seeks it, removes all despair. The declaration, that repentance is the

gift of God, and that we can only obey and serve him as he gives us grace to conform ourselves to his will, is equally hostile to every feeling of pride and destructive to every idea of personal merit. The Christian who walks in this faith, and in the fear and love of God, comparing his imperfect endeavours to serve his Maker with the perfect requirements of his holy law, will constantly feel powerful incentives to self-abasement, whilst love to the Author of all his blessings will so firmly bind him to his Redeemer, that he will rejoice to do his will, finding his service perfect freedom and his ways delightful.

"Every false religion must have its origin in the invention of man: every deviation from the truth, being derived from the same source, will harmonize in principle, and therefore be similar in effect: in the latter these may at first be less evident than in the former, because it is consistent with the common order of things that the departure should be gradual, but as it proceeds it will not fail to show this effect more evidently.

"Such being the case, every false religion will be suited to encourage those feelings, the gratification of which is acceptable to human

nature in its fallen state. Hence pride, the indulgence of sensual appetites, and the gratification of our passions will either be allowed or very imperfectly restrained.

" Apply this to Popery:—its professors are taught to believe in the merit of their own attempts to serve God, and that the punishment of the body, by voluntary inflictions of penance, will atone for the sins of their souls, so that a man justifying himself by his own works, may boast of his own righteousness before God:—that some have not only attained to this, but to such an exalted degree of it, as to have more than they wanted for their own benefit, and, therefore, had a superabundance to spare for others, and thus have become mediators between God and man. Hence its votaries, instead of looking to Jesus alone for salvation, are taught to look to the creature, denying the Lord their Redeemer; contradicting the Scripture, which says that there is no other name given under heaven whereby man can be saved, and that by the deeds of the law shall no man be justified.

" Hence instead of one, it exhibits many mediators, and directs prayers to be made to saints, as intercessors between God and man,

thus exalting the creature to rob the Redeemer of his glory.

"It teaches that alms and donations to the church propitiate divine favour; that fasts and mortifications purify the soul: thus gratifying the covetous desires of a worldly-minded priesthood, and laying burdens upon the people hard to be borne, but which their teachers know how to turn to their own gratification.

"Observe the effects of such a system; it lays the foundation of habits of spiritual pride and self-sufficiency; it makes a corrupt priesthood the dispensing ministers of salvation, which it teaches can only be obtained by a blind obedience to their dictates; it destroys the purifying influence of the principles of the Gospel, by making sin a venial offence, which may be atoned for by corporal pain, or the payment of money; hence it encourages vice and misery. By openly selling pardons for sins, and indulgences for crimes not committed, it subverts all morality and encourages every species of profligacy. It denies the use of the Scriptures to the people, and so endeavours to rivet on them the bondage of ignorance and false doctrine. It makes the wealth, the influence, and the

power of the priesthood every thing; the salvation, the instruction, and the welfare of the people nothing; they are only of value as they conduce to the splendour and support of their ministerial masters, who, in their attempts to gain proselytes, give way to and compound with their converts in many erroneous practices, so that they might win them, not to Christ, but to their corrupt church. It asserts the existence of a middle state between this and a future world, in which guilt may be expiated or removed, contrary to the word of God; a false doctrine, peculiarly calculated to gratify the love of lucre: and assumes the power of dispensing with oaths and disposing of kingdoms; our Lord declaring that his kingdom is not of this world, and that a Christian's word should be irrevocable.

"The practical consequences to morals have been correspondent with these principles; wherever Popery has prevailed, darkness, ignorance, and crime have flourished. The purity of God being denied, purity becomes unnecessary to his creatures, whose guilt, however heinous, may be removed by a penance, or a fine and confession; and the criminal, having

settled an old account of transgression, becomes free to commence a new career of iniquity:—whilst the priest, cut off by vows of celibacy from the lawful enjoyments as well as the social ties of life, becomes exposed to unnecessary temptations, estranged from that society of which he is naturally a member, and devoted to the interests of his order.

"The course which corruption has generally taken might be traced historically, had we time for it; we may, however, just glance at the latter age of the Jewish church, and we shall see how the same motives produced, as they always must, similar effects. Forgetful of the spirituality of the law, they trusted to a nice observance of its ceremonies to justify them in the sight of God; they became proud and self-righteous; they lost sight of the hatefulness of sin in the sight of a holy God; their lives became sensual and flagitious; fasts and penances were esteemed meritorious; bigotry and delusion followed; love to God ceased to be the foundation of their worship, and love to man equally ceased to be the fruit of it. A slavish fear, which took place of it, produced an idolatrous effect on their teachers, who exercised a tyrannical

superstition over others, binding upon these burdens hard to be borne, whilst they refused to touch them with their fingers."

"Still," interrupted Mr. Saville, "the Jewish church was the church of God, and maintained the worship which God had appointed. Our Lord conformed to and observed its ordinances. The Gospels record instances of pious persons who lived in its communion, and found its instructions sufficient for their salvation. Granting the corruptions of the Catholic church, it is still a church of Christ, and the doctrine contained in it, though obscured by many superstitions and idolatries, is yet sufficient to save a penitent sinner."

"To inquire," said Mr. Winston, "how little of the Gospel is sufficient to save a penitent sinner, is like asking how little light may be necessary to save a man from imminent danger, while he shuts out or neglects the glorious light of the sun, which God has given in all its fulness for his safety. Every wise man travelling a road full of danger will avail himself of the day, and avoid encountering them in the glimmering of twilight, because it may suffice for his escape. But there is this striking difference between the Papal and Jewish churches. The forms, under

which redemption was preached in the latter, continued the same, and the Scriptures were accessible to the people. Their teachers attempted to make the word of God of no effect by their traditions, but they never locked it up from the individual members of their community; therefore the tendency, and partial, not full effect of their corruptions is evident. The Papists have changed the divine worship from the simple service of the heart, warmed by love of the Redeemer and devotion to his will, to a course of splendid and gorgeous ceremonies, calculated to captivate the imagination, but not to produce any effect on the soul. The principles which privately and separately influence the latter being, as was before observed, such as must encourage depravity. These could not be established whilst the Scriptures were permitted to circulate, they have therefore been denied to the laity; and as every bad purpose must be clothed by some fair pretence, so they have endeavoured to defend this by a simulated zeal for the welfare of the flock:—whilst God declares his Word intended for and suited to all, and so easy that he who runs may read it; exhorting all men diligently to examine it, and walk in its precepts, which will lead them to

life and immortality: they denounce it as mysterious, and suited to mislead and destroy. In concord with such assertions they withhold it, and improve on the measures of their pharisaical predecessors by the adoption of traditions, more calculated to involve the flock in gross darkness, and make them more easily and certainly their prey."

"These are weighty considerations," observed Mr. Saville, "but will a comparison of the effects produced in either case on the morals of the people confirm such assertions? If these latter are true, the former will be similar in kind, but worse in degree, under the influence of the Papal than that of the Jewish government."

"Facts," replied the Rector, "will establish this. Those recorded in the New Testament, whilst they prove the extreme anxiety of the Jews for the strict observance of the ceremonial law in its minutest particulars, testify that oppression, cruelty, and injustice were daily practised without remorse and without shame. The conduct of the Scribes and Pharisees shows the general prevalence of perjury among that people. They blushed not to urge forward the persecution against our Lord, accompanied by such circumstances and supported by such means as shocked the feel-

ings of a Roman soldier, whose compliance could only be obtained by threatening to impeach his fidelity. History records that a very few years after this, the Sanhedrim dissolved itself, confessing that perjury, almost the only crime that remained under their jurisdiction, had become so prevalent that their authority was quite insufficient to restrain it, and therefore the farther exercise of their power was become useless.

" As ignorance must increase every moral evil, so the diffusion of learning, by facilitating the detection of error, must tend to the suppression of vice. The gross darkness which prevailed through Europe for so many ages favoured those errors and delusions, which never could have been introduced into any system of faith or doctrine without its aid. Hence the uniform opposition which the Papal authorities have exerted to the extension of the means of education, and more especially scriptural education. Yet the invention of printing and the spirit of inquiry which has been roused have so enlarged and employed the means of acquiring knowledge, that most beneficial effects have been produced, in spite of all the endeavours of Papists to prevent them.

"There is a total degradation of principle and practice, to which corrupt doctrines constantly tend, but in so doing they produce results which frequently delay their own progress. Governments feel their baneful effects, and, to prevent their own subversion, are compelled to interpose some checks. Hence, in Catholic countries, the attention to the maintenance of decency and the show of religion, in processions and brilliant displays of service; but not accompanied with any instruction that may influence the heart and understanding. It only aims at whitening the outside of the sepulchre, not at cleansing it from internal corruption.

"The state of the lower classes of the Irish, as relates to ignorance and superstition, is perhaps nearest of any to that of the inhabitants of Europe before the Reformation. That people, which possesses many good feelings and qualities to a degree equal, perhaps superior, to most other nations, under the miserable impulse of these wretched doctrines, exhibits practices of fraud, violence, and cruelty, rarely if ever surpassed. Turn to the continent of Europe, where the Reformation and those causes to which I lately referred have produced some effect, though generally a very limited one. In

spite of the exterior garb of decency, often assumed, there are the same general consequences of false doctrine; revenge pursued to assassination; the courts of justice open to bribery and corruption; female purity and matrimonial fidelity lightly esteemed, and frequently little practised; Sabbath observances little valued and maintained, but saints' days and festivals honoured with the strictest attention, thus fulfilling the very words of our Lord, transgressing the commandments of God by their traditions."

"Many of these," replied Mr. Saville, "are the consequences of a bad police. If this was better regulated, public morals would be more pure and crime diminished."

"I believe," answered the Rector, "there is no want of police exertion in Ireland, yet it has not prevented the perpetration of the most hideous crimes; but I would inquire whence arises the establishment of a good and active police, and other measures of good government, but from the operation of those principles of truth and justice which are taught by divine revelation, and which cannot be derived from any other source. If the fear of God is the active principle in the people and their governors,

there will be an exertion to maintain his laws and regulate their practice by them; hence the administration of justice, becomes pure, upright, and equal; subordinate authorities are taught to be active, diligent, and impartial, and those who do not live as Christians from principle, will be compelled to abstain from all gross violations of law or decorum. But if neither the people nor their governors live under the impulse of religious motives, all those vices and immoralities which flow from false doctrine will prevail amongst them."

"Certainly," said Mr. Saville, "good principles ought to produce the best practice; but your assertion that corrupt Judaism, corrupt Christianity and Paganism produce effects nearly alike, is much too bold. Hinduism cannot be as good as popery."

"Yet," returned Mr. Winston, "I find in them the same nice observances of unprofitable regulations, coupled with the same moral neglect and vicious practice. Their legal service is full of minute points, which serve to separate them from other sects, but their practice is shockingly negligent of truth, honesty, and benevolence. I trace the same will worship, the same merit of penance, the same bigotry and exclusion. No

real love to God and consequently none to man; the same idolatrous worship, the same expectation of purchasing the divine favour by devotion to the priests, who are the same masters over what they profess to believe to be the Lord's heritage, and who with equal contempt and selfishness trample upon the interest, the feeling and welfare of the flock. Each anticipates a purgatory, though differently modified. Each indulges the same proud spirit of self-righteousness and want of humility; the same superstitious fears and apprehensions of God, equally unworthy of him and inconsistent with truth. In two respects, I must certainly think the Hindoo has a claim to our preference; he never expects his most exalted saints to have any righteousness to spare. His superior piety may raise him to a high degree of divine enjoyment, but he never supposes, with the papist, that he can lay up such a store of good works, that he may abound in them so as to impart of his superfluity to those who may fall short, and thus take the Saviour's work out of his hands, and become himself a source of justification to sinners. Nor does he make use of persecution either to acquire converts to his faith or to try the sincerity of those who profess themselves members of it."

"This is a severe picture," observed the magistrate, "and I must confess that the similarity is far more like than I had anticipated, and popery possesses far less resemblance to real Christianity than I could have conceived."

"You have formed your opinion," replied Mr. Llewellyn, "from what you have observed of the professions and practice of Catholics in this country. These constantly exposed to the influence of Protestantism feel checked in the exercise of all extremes both of doctrine and practice. Forming only a small portion of the community, and feeling the spirit of that community against them, they act with a reserve and caution which hides half its corruptions. They make loud professions of liberality, but it is only to be found on the lips, their hearts are not affected by any such principles, which they never fail to evince when opportunities occur to call them into action. But if you visit Catholic countries, you will directly observe the gross delusions there practised; the mummery, idolatry, and superstition, which there prevail to mislead the ignorant; the yoke imposed to enslave the laity, and the obstacles laid in the way of those who may wish to break the shackles of this tyranny; the superior reverence

paid to the ordinances of man when compared with that rendered to those of God, and you will be immediately convinced how grossly the church of Rome has departed from that faith which is founded on the merits of our Saviour, and which was preached by his apostles. In fact it has no claim whatever to the title of a church of Christ; it denies his doctrines, subverts his rules of practice, and persecutes his followers."

Mr. Saville had just signified his intention to examine this more particularly during a tour which he meditated on the continent, when the signal calling the young folks to the elm stopped our farther conversation.

CHAPTER XV.

AMONGST the company which I had met at the mansion, was a gentleman and his daughter of the name of Lovat. The former seemed hardly to have reached his fiftieth year; he was tall, rather thin, fine blue eyes, with light hair, and that kind of complexion and those prominent cheek bones which present a physiognomy so common amongst the inhabitants of North Britain. There was no accent or allusion in his manners or conversation which seemed to confirm the promise of northern descent, indicated by his countenance. His language and pronunciation were both correct, and he conversed with great ease and freedom yet there was an expression of melancholy impressed upon his features, which if removed by a smile, recurred immediately as that smile subsided. He appeared particularly interested in the exercises of the juvenile part of the assembly, but without laying aside or forgetting that mournful impression which seemed to arise from some secret feeling, which could neither be removed nor suppressed.

That an only surviving parent should experience particular love and anxiety for an only child seems so perfectly consonant to the best feelings of humanity, that it gratifies rather than surprises the spectator; Mr. Lovat, without betraying this emotion evidently felt it. It might have passed unobserved by many, but not by those who, like myself, have been called by our professional duties, to live in the constant study of human characters. It gave me peculiar satisfaction to observe the kind attentions of a beautiful girl apparently about twenty-two or twenty-three years of age as evidently and inartificially directed towards her parent. Her person, except that the prominence of the cheek bones was hardly discernible, was a feminine copy of her father's, and her conversation, which was very lively, playful, and intelligent, gave me a full comprehension of what her parent had been before misfortune had preyed upon him, and melancholy had marked him for her own.

Next evening when I had repaired to the terrace in the rectory garden to enjoy the beautiful scenery of the valley as displayed from thence, I found Miss Winston there, employed in the same contemplation.

"Your love for family history," said I, "again

exposes you to a troublesome task. I wish to have some particulars of that of Mr. Lovat, whom we met yesterday at the mansion."

"It will never be a task to me," she replied, "to relate such information as I may happen to be possessed of concerning my friends; and the circumstances attending the history of this family are very interesting. You will remember when my brother pointed out to you the situation of the old castle, and related some conduct of the ancestry of the Christies, that he mentioned the concealment of two highland gentlemen, who had been separated from the army of the young Chevalier, during its retreat in one thousand seven hundred and forty-five. Mr. Lovat is the son of one of them."

"Ah!" said I, "and settled in this vicinity?"

"The two gentlemen, Malcolm and Angus," she observed, "were both Frasers of Lovat. They were cousins to the unfortunate nobleman who last bore that title. Malcolm early in life had displayed great talents, and his chief had confidentially employed him in many of his most important affairs; particularly in those negotiations which were carried on between the nobles of Scotland and the race of their exiled monarch, and which had for their object the restoration of

the latter to the throne. Malcolm's penetrating mind soon discovered the impracticability of the enterprise, and openly warned his Lord of the hazard of the undertaking, or rather the certain loss of life and honour, which must result from supporting such a desperate measure. Lord Lovat praised his judgment and candour, but rejected his advice; which, he said, was founded on a too superficial knowledge of the strength and resources of the Stuart party. In fact the vanity of the old Lord was so captivated by the promise of being created Duke of Fraser, as soon as the Pretender should have gained the crown, that he considered no danger too great to encounter if only he could secure that empty title.

"Angus was a very different character: naturally severe, he wished to devote himself to those practices which have ever been esteemed meritorious by the devotees of the Catholic church. His desires had been complied with, and he had been sent to a convent to be educated as the future confessor of the family. Before he had taken orders, his chief conceived that his personal services might be useful during the campaign, which was then about to commence on British ground, and he returned to Scotland accordingly.

"The severe principle of obedience to the head of the clan and devotion to the commands of their chief, which from their infancy had been carefully impressed upon their minds as their most important duty, alike influenced the intelligent Malcolm and the bigoted gloomy Angus to yield implicit submission to his orders: they accompanied the army as far as Derby, and were returning northwards with it on its retreat; when passing the neighbouring moor, a body of cavalry having suddenly attacked their column, they were cut off from it, and finding themselves unable again to join it, they were compelled to secret themselves among the whins until the evening should give them an opportunity of pursuing the course of their clansmen.

"As they approached Lynford, which they doubted not would be occupied by some of the cavalry with whom they had been engaged, and whose sentries they expected would be ready to seize them, they deviated from the main road, hoping by a detour to avoid the danger which thus threatened them, and to regain the line of their march without difficulty. The direction which they took brought them to the extremity of Branceston manor, where the keeper and his son were on the alert to detect

some poachers, by whom the game had been frequently destroyed: the latter were known to be desperate characters, and their pursuers had taken the precaution to spread some difficulties in their way, by which they hoped to be able to apprehend them without an affray. After these had been some time at their post, they perceived some persons advancing, but with a caution and hesitation which did not seem to belong to poachers acquainted with the scene of their depredations. They advanced, and in a few minutes the foremost, which happened to be Malcolm, was entangled in the toil, the keepers both rushed forward, seized and disarmed the fugitives, who had no opportunity of making any resistance: their habiliments immediately discovered who they were, and the events of the preceding day, which were well known, explained how they came there. The captors conducted them to their cottage, where they kept a strict guard over them during the night. As soon as it was day, the keeper dispatched his wife to the mansion to inform his master of the circumstance. He repaired there without delay, and having ordered the servants to retire to the door and keep their guard, he entered into conversation with the prisoners. Malcolm, with

the greatest candor, told him all the particulars of their separation, and the motives which had brought them on his domains, and threw himself and companion on his compassion, to allow them to attempt to make their escape. Mr. Christie informed him of the pursuit of the highland army, and the impossibility of their again joining it, adding, that if they confided themselves to his protection, he would find them immediate shelter, and use his endeavours to secure their escape out of the kingdom. He observed, 'I might require your promise never again to disturb the peace of the country; I consider that needless: this attempt was desperate and could only serve the French king by making a diversion in his favour. Of this all your friends are now sufficiently aware; and for this blood enough has and will be shed; and dearly will many ancient Scottish families pay for their attachment to the House of Stuart. I will hazard my own welfare in the cause of humanity, and lessen, as far as I am able, the woe which must ensue from this ill-advised enterprise.'

"The highlanders felt the generosity of the offer, and after exchanging a few sentences in their native language, threw themselves entirely on their protector.

"It has been a practice with this family, from a very distant day, only to employ as servants the children of their own tenantry: these mostly born, always brought up, on the estate, whose owners have been particularly careful of the interests of their dependants, feel a bond of union which has always been productive of the greatest confidence on one side and faithfulness on the other. Mr. Christie, therefore, entertained no apprehension of the secrecy of the keeper and his family, nor of the fidelity of the servants.

"But there were people over whom he had not the same control, and whose inquisitive observations he might find it impossible to silence or elude, particularly at a period when every unlooked for event excited inquiry: to obviate this he ordered his coach to take the road to Castleton, and having instructed the keeper to conduct his inmates, whom he had provided with a change of clothing, to meet it, he returned home with them openly, and thus by the publicity of their arrival quashed all suspicion or inquiry. As both the gentlemen had been educated on the continent, they were free from those national peculiarities which might have betrayed their country.

"The refugees were both Catholics. The pre-

judices against that religion were stronger then than at present, and heightened by the effect of party spirit. It was absolutely necessary that this fact should be concealed, and to do this more effectually, they felt obliged to attend the religious services of the family, both at church and at home. This was particularly irksome to Angus, who, being a devoted Catholic, could hardly reconcile this compliance to his conscience, even for the safety of his person. He frequently felt his spirit moved to address his benevolent host, and attempt his conversion. 'I should be guilty,' he would say, 'of the greatest ingratitude to my best benefactor, if I did not endeavour to repay his kindness by seeking his eternal welfare. Delicacy cannot interpose to prevent my doing this. I am in his power, dependant entirely upon him, I therefore cannot exert any control over him; but I must entreat him, for his soul's sake, to seek admission into the holy Catholic church. How happy shall I be if can see my temporal deliverer rewarded with eternal salvation.' His kind-hearted benefactor was not insensible to the grateful emotion which gave rise to these expressions. He felt the indelicacy of obtruding his sentiments upon the consideration of his

guests, in their then relative situation. When the other began, he did not decline the discussion; but promised his conversion as soon as he could prove the service of the mass, purgatory, the invocation and mediation of saints, and the pre-eminence of the Bishop of Rome to be of scriptural authority.

"This appeal involved poor Angus in difficulties. He wished to refer to the decrees of popes and councils, the formulas and practices of his church: these were authorities which his opponent could not admit, and he required them to be established from the word of God. The other asserted that the Scriptures are a sealed book, not accessible to the laity, whose duty it is to receive their belief from the ministers of the church, and upon her authority: that it was beyond all admission that the Bible should be submitted to the unhallowed investigation of heretics, whose obstinate rejection of the doctrines of the church sufficiently evidenced their incapacity to unravel 'the mysterious word of God.'

"These endeavours produced an effect which Angus had never anticipated:—Malcolm had been educated in the principles of the Romish church, and had conformed to all her rites, without conceiving that she could be in error; had

a direct attack been made upon these, he would have felt his honour concerned to defend them, but in these discussions he was only a listener, and the candid avowals made by his host excited a doubt in his mind whether those doctrines, in which he had professed himself a believer, were really founded in truth. The confident appeal of the one to Scripture, the uniform rejection of that appeal by his cousin, made a powerful impression, and he resolved to examine the Scriptures for himself as soon as he could find the opportunity.

" Shortly after his making this resolution, an observation made by Angus, induced his host to appeal to the passage, ' God is a Spirit, and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth;' and he remarked upon the difference between such worship as that inculcated by the Romish church, consisting of rites, forms, and observances, all which are mere bodily services, and that enjoined by our Saviour, which, engaging the heart and sanctifying the affections, leads to a holy and godly life. Malcolm had been previously impressed by the cheerful practical piety which prevailed throughout the family, entirely devoid of that gloomy austerity which he had seen uniformly adopted

by those members of his church who were deemed superior in holiness. This remark suggested the cause of the difference, and he no longer hesitated to request the loan of a Bible, which he perused with diligence. The contents were so different from what he had been taught to expect, and the doctrines of the church to which he belonged so completely wanting, or rather opposed by this volume, that it raised a doubt in his mind whether the book put into his hands was a genuine copy of the sacred volume.

"The confidence he had in his protector was such that he would have cheerfully intrusted him with all his worldly concerns, but here one arose of too great importance to be committed to the judgment or opinion of any one. He, therefore, requested him to procure for him a copy of the Vulgate translation of the Bible, the version authorized by his own church, and printed by Catholic printers. Mr. Christie gladly complied, and with his usual delicacy refrained from making any observation upon it.

"Malcolm now pursued his examination with ardour. He became daily more convinced of the idolatry and departure of the church of Rome from that faith which is taught in the Scriptures, and, finally, he abjured the errors of

Popery, and united himself to the Protestant church.

" But whilst he was thus employed, his cousin Angus, mortified at his want of success with his benefactor, and alarmed at the effect which his attempts had produced upon his relation, began to think he was acting wickedly in accepting the protection of an heretic, an oppugner of the Holy See, and that the just judgment of God would come hastily upon him if he did not separate himself from his kind but impious guardian. He soon resolved to take his departure, and addressed his host, ' My dear and kind benefactor, I cannot return the favours I have received; but I will never cease to pray for you, and above all for your spiritual welfare, I mean your conversion to the true faith. I feel that I have done wrong in obeying the command even of my Chief to interrupt my course of study and engage in secular affairs. I could not have complied, had I not believed that it would have forwarded the interests of the church. It has not done it, and I must now return to my cloister, from which I ought never to have departed. I purpose going to Hull to-morrow, from whence I hope to find the means of returning to the continent, and to my seminary.'

"It was in vain that Mr. Christie endeavoured to convince him of the dangers attending this plan, and that every delay lessened them. He felt so uncomfortable in remaining under that protection, which it appeared to him to be sinful to accept, that he was resolved to brave every hazard to escape from it. The master of the mansion furnished him with every facility he could command or procure, to enable him to pursue his attempt with success, and which he finally accomplished.

"Though of a gloomy and severe turn of mind, he was not ungrateful, and various testimonies were conveyed, as occasion offered, of his thoughtful remembrance of the kindnesses he had received, but one effect produced by his gratitude bore strong evidence to his superstitious bigotry. He rose high in the Catholic church, and died Archbishop of ———, in which cathedral he erected a chapel, and endowed a priest liberally to pray for the conversion of the Branceston family and their descendants.

"Malcolm still remained in his hospitable asylum. The events which had taken place precluded all possibility of his return to Scotland. The head of his clan had been taken prisoner

and conveyed to London. The base duplicity by which he had endeavoured to transfer his guilt to his son, and sacrifice an amiable youth, scarcely twenty years of age, to save himself, grown old in iniquity, had been discovered. His trial had been proceeded with; his crimes proved, himself found guilty and executed under circumstances which, though accidental, would have shocked the feelings of any one less hardened than himself, but which only drew from him an expression in perfect correspondence with his former unfeeling conduct.

"The heir of Lovat had been permitted to remain in London on his parole, and other individuals of that unfortunate house had been treated by Government with great lenity. The papers which Malcolm had laid before his chief, decidedly expressive of his unwillingness to engage in the late ruinous enterprise, and urging his Lordship to separate himself from it, had fallen under the consideration of a great law officer, in the course of his official employment. This gentleman, though a cousin of Lovat, had firmly fulfilled his public duty, without regard to the claims of kindred. The examination of these papers convinced him that Malcolm was as deserving of protection as his Lord had been of

punishment, and he resolved to interfere in his favour.

"Malcolm had no sooner heard of the indulgence shown to the heir of Lovat than he determined to repair to London, and after an interview with him, to retire to some of the foreign possessions of the British crown, if possible. He had no doubt, but, in any country where he might live free from suspicion, he could retrieve his fortunes.

"On his arrival in London, he found that the law officer before referred to had communicated to the heir of Lovat, who was now regarded by his clansmen as their chief, his intention to assist and protect him, but recommending him to assume another name. He returned through the same channel, to his friend and concealed patron, an assurance that Malcolm Lovat, fully sensible of the kindness shown to him, was ready to go any where, and in any capacity in which his services might be useful. A few days after he received a commission in a regiment then on duty in India, with orders to join immediately, and instructions how he was to do so.

"He served in that country nearly twenty years, obtained high rank, and returned to

England with a broken constitution and moderate fortune. The climate of this neighbourhood has been long thought particularly suitable to persons suffering under the effects of tropical complaints. His physicians recommended him to reside here; they could hardly have suggested any thing more agreeable, and the estate of Lansley being soon after on sale, he purchased it, married the daughter of a neighbouring clergyman, and lived upon it till his death, when it devolved on his son, the gentleman you saw yesterday, and who was then only a child.

"The mother's care well supplied those of both parents; young Lovat grew up, the inheritor both of his father's talents and energy; and the activity he displayed engaged him a full share in all those employments which fall to the share of country gentlemen. Nor did a matrimonial connexion, which he formed in his twenty-fifth year, prevent his continuing to attend to those duties which he felt attached to his station.

"It was in the second pregnancy of his lady that he had been attending a county meeting; returning from it, he gave his horse to his servant, and entering the garden by a private door, was proceeding towards the house, when he

discovered Mrs. Lovat in a situation which but too justly filled him with alarm: she was prostrate on the floor of an alcove, which commanding an extensive and delightful view of one of those romantic scenes, so common in this neighbourhood, had always been her favourite resort. To this she had then repaired, that she might receive her husband on his return. She had no sooner attempted to seat herself in her chair as usual, when the feet giving way, precipitated her on the floor, and the injury she had received was too great to permit her to make any endeavour to relieve herself. It occasioned a premature confinement, which three days after proved fatal.

"Had this melancholy event been the result of accident, Mr. Lovat had felt its severity; but upon examining the broken chair, which seemed to have been the cause of it; two of its legs had evidently been recently sawn, sufficiently to ensure their separation immediately as any one should place himself on it. Every member of the family lamented the bitter fruit of this piece of wanton and culpable mischief. Every one endeavoured to find out the author of it, but in vain. It was considered as having been done in mischievous sport, and whilst each one was sunk

in the deepest affliction, no intentional guilt was attributed to the contriver.

" Years passed on: the event was almost forgotten, except by those who had been nearly related to, and therefore were most deeply concerned in the fate of this excellent woman. One morning, about twelve months since, the family were alarmed by one of the servants, at an early hour, having discovered a man in the grounds, near the house, dreadfully gored. Mr. Lovat hastened to the spot, and found there a man whom he recollected formerly to have been his butler, and whom he had discharged from his service under a strong suspicion of his having been privy to the stealing of his plate, and who had subsequently been seen robbing his garden, after which he had withdrawn from the neighbourhood, and had not been heard of.

" His present distressed situation banished from Mr. Lovat's mind every feeling but that of compassion. He caused him to be removed to the house with the greatest care. He sent for the best surgical assistance, and ordered every thing to be done that could contribute to save or console the sufferer. The surgeon pronounced the wounds mortal, and warned him to prepare for death, which he assured him was at hand.

The information produced no impression on the mind of him who was most interested in it; but after a few hours, as he felt himself sinking towards his grave, he became agitated and exhibited feelings of distress, which excited the liveliest interest in all those about him, particularly in Mr. Lovat and his mother, whose kindness was more anxiously shown, because they felt and always acted upon the principle of returning good for evil, and though this providence would have called forth their attention under any circumstances, yet, when occasioned by one of their own cattle, and upon one who had formerly been the subject of their displeasure, they felt themselves bound to use every means to relieve his present sufferings, or prepare him for his impending departure.

"But no effort could relieve or suppress his agitations. My father, whose attendance had been requested, conceived that some secret crime lay heavy on his mind, and urged him to confess the guilt of any transaction which now distressed him: he long kept silent. My father requested some of the servants, who were present, to leave the room, thinking that their removal would encourage his confidence.

"'No,' replied the man, 'let them stay, they

may profit by my villainy: but call Mr. Lovat; he must hear me.'

"Mr. Lovat was soon by his bedside: his presence evidently increased the agitation of the dying man. He seemed unable to speak, but after some delay he began.

"'You cannot have forgotten that I was once your servant, and dismissed under a suspicion of having been privy to the robbery when your plate was stolen: that suspicion was well founded. I poisoned your favourite dog, and prepared the fastenings so that they might be easily broken; and when it had been effected, I shared the plunder. You know I was seen by Mrs. Lovat when I robbed your garden; at that early hour I was assured that none of your family would be moving; but as I was getting over the wall, I perceived a female, in a night dress, standing at your bed-room window, and I was assured that I was discovered, and that my flight was now necessary to save me from punishment. I fled immediately, but resolved to have my revenge, even though the period should be distant. I went to Barnsted, and there I bought a watchmaker's saw: the effects of so fine an instrument would not be easy to observe——'

"'Forbear,' said Mr. Lovat, 'I anticipate what is to follow.'

"'Hear me, Sir,' said the dying man, 'I beseech you to hear me; I am dying. I returned; I entered your pleasure ground and sawed through the feet of the chair which I knew my mistress was wont to occupy, and fled. Some days after I came in the evening to Passy, and learnt that my mistress was dead, from the hurt she had received from my contrivance. It was more than I had intended, but I did not then repent of it. I again fled, but I could not fly from myself——'

"Here Mr. Lovat's feelings were so far overcome that he could no longer remain in the room: he hastily retired in an agony of distress, followed by a faithful servant. The dying man called to him to stay and to forgive him, but his emotions prevented his hearing or complying.

"The culprit felt the guilt of his crimes, which before seemed to overwhelm him, increased. My father endeavoured to draw from him the remainder of his narrative; and, after some delay, he proceeded.

"'I enlisted for a soldier, and I have served the king in Ireland, at Gibraltar, Malta, and in

Spain: wherever I went I pushed myself into danger, but to no purpose. My comrades have fallen all around me, but I could not be killed: of all that were out with the regiment, scarcely a man remained besides myself to come home with it. I was discharged a few weeks ago, and came to Passy only last night. Rising early, I came here to look at the place where I committed my crimes: I went to the alcove and wished that I might die there, to get rid of my guilty conscience. I thought I heard some one near me, and in haste I got into the close behind, that I might get away: the cows were feeding there; one of them immediately began to move towards me; she looked so quiet that I took little notice of her; she followed till I was near the gate, when she rushed forward, and running her horn into my body, raised her head with a force that threw me over her back, and then returned quietly to the herd. I felt myself a dead man, and only desired that I might be so before any body found me, but in vain.'

"He sobbed deeply as he related these particulars, and the pain felt by all present was extreme. But when he begged that Mr. Lovat would return, that he might implore his forgiveness, all felt the impossibility of expecting that

he could so far restrain his feelings as to comply. My father went to his study, where he found him with his mother and daughter. The confession had harrowed up all their distresses as fresh as if the transaction had only taken place that morning, and the innocent victim of this dreadful revenge was then before them. He hinted in general terms the penitence and request of the offender, and that being on the brink of eternity there was no room for delay. That he hoped the grace, promised to every Christian in the time of trial, would enable his friend, in that moment of severe and overwhelming affliction, to manifest the reality of his faith in Jesus, by obedience to the divine command of forgiveness to our enemies. 'You know,' replied Mr. Lovat, 'the loss sustained by myself, my child, my parent, and all who were within the influence of that heavenly-minded creature. I desire to forgive him all the injuries I have received from him—assure him of it.'—'If you can do this personally,' replied my father, 'the relief to the poor wretch in his last moments will be more effectual. It may cost you a struggle, but you will reflect on it with satisfaction.' Mr. Lovat rose and followed him. The dying man exerted all his strength to call on

him for pardon. Mr. Lovat, with a steadiness of voice which he could not command a few moments before, assured him that he forgave him all his own wrongs, and admonished him to seek for pardon from that God against whom he had more grievously transgressed, and whose forgiveness was infinitely more necessary. My father supported him back to his family; and returning to the dying man, found the author of this scene of suffering overcome by his exertions, fallen into a swoon. When he recovered from this, he acknowledged the particular justice of God, which had saved him from so many perils, that he might fall as it were on the very spot where he had committed his crimes. He expressed his thankfulness, not so much for the kindness with which he was treated in his dying hours, as for the forgiveness he had received, and his hope that it was a prelude to that mercy which he prayed to receive from God. He joined fervently in supplication for that mercy; and when my father had concluded, his confessions of guilt were accompanied with expressions strongly indicative of a hope of pardon. He soon fell into another swoon, from which he awoke in eternity."

CHAPTER XVI.

ACCUSTOMED to take solitary walks for the purposes of reflection and meditation; I one evening withdrew from the Rectory, and pursued my way along a path that led from the village into the fields. The day had been hot, the sun was declining towards the horizon, and the cool breeze of the evening felt delightfully refreshing. There was so much impressive beauty in a landscape varying from the sublimely mountainous to the fertile level; in the harmony of birds taking their leave of the setting sun, among which the notes of the robin and the blackbird particularly struck the ear: in the bleating of the fold and lowing of the herds, united to the peaceful return of the labourer to his humble cottage, often followed by the younger associate of his toils, whose cheerful whistle bore testimony to his freedom from care; that, beguiled of my purpose and recollection, I wandered on till the increase of the shades of night awoke me from my reverie and warned me to return. I soon found that I

had lost my way; to recover it I ascended an eminence and beheld the last rays of the setting sun illuminating the spire of Passy. Having marked the direction which it behoved me to follow, I descended, and at length reached a road which conducted me to the Rectory.

As I approached the village, I passed a small but very neat cottage: the door was open, and the voice of a young female singing the Evening Hymn proceeded from it; I paused to listen to it: the intervals of her singing were filled up with the hum of a spinning wheel; the sound of the latter had been familiar to me, and brought to my mind recollections associated with some of my earliest and happiest years. It also reminded me of my venerable parent, who feelingly lamented the loss sustained by many of his poor female parishioners, who had been deprived of this resource for their industry by the introduction of more powerful machinery.

As I approached the door, I perceived two females, one sitting at her wheel, with her back towards the entrance; the other on her legs, engaged in the same operation, and regulating her modulation by the motion of her hands and feet.

I stood there a few seconds before I attracted her notice; one word from the younger to the

elder, in a tone of voice too low for me to understand them, directed the attention of the latter to the door, and procured me an invitation to enter.

"You work late," I observed.

"We do not commonly work so late," replied the mother; "but my wool being nearly all spun, I was wishful to finish it up to night."

"I thought this mode of spinning was quite out of use?"

"There is but little hand-work agait now-a-days," replied the dame; "but the kindness of a true friend supplies us with this."

"I am glad," I observed, "that you have met with such a friend. I hope that and similar blessings do not pass unnoticed nor unimproved by you: they come from a Father of Mercies, and are to be received with thankfulness."

"I trust they are," replied the woman; "yet I know well enough that I am not so grateful as I ought to be for so much mercy and goodness as I have received under so many troubles."

"Have you then found your path encompassed with many sorrows?" I inquired.

"Oh! yes, Sir," she returned; "the first part of my life went on smoothly, it seemed all happiness; but for the last fourteen years I have

undergone severe trials; yet I have not been left to sink under them: God has raised me friends, whose kind hearts have never suffered me to want, nor ever will."

The neatness of the cottage, the cheerful looks of its inhabitants, and the feeling of pious resignation, which the elder female seemed to experience under the varied dispensations of Providence, induced me more particularly to inquire into her history. The annals of the poor are generally simple, frequently interesting, but when related by themselves, not often short. I found my present companion much better acquainted with the art of extending than condensing her story; which, stripped of unnecessary details and amplification, informed me that, when about five-and-twenty, she had married a young man of good disposition and morals, with whom she had lived very happily more than ten years; when, by a sudden visitation of Providence, she had been deprived of him, and left a widow with five children.

It appeared, that when they commenced their married life, they had entered upon it with such views and under such circumstances as would generally be deemed prudent; that her husband, Robert Wood, had been steady, industrious,

and affectionate; that after Mr. Winston had entered upon his pastoral duties, he had visited them frequently, had given them a Bible and exhorted them to read it, with prayer to God that he would enable them to understand it, and feel the influence of its precepts and doctrines in their hearts and lives; that they would endeavour to bring up their children in the knowledge of its sacred truths, and in the habitual practice of Christian obedience; that the reading of the Scriptures had been a source of great delight and blessing to them; that when a child she had not learnt to read, but that Robert had taught her during the evenings of the ensuing winter; that Robert's good conduct had retained him in the same service at the Valley until it was sold, when Mr. Llewellyn, the purchaser, had retained him in the same employment, and pleased with his fidelity and humanity, had given him the management of a new team of very fine horses; and the first time he went out with them, he had been killed coming down a hill, in consequence of the shaft horse not having been obedient to the rein, when he was endeavouring to make him back properly.

The event made a deep impression on the Llewellyns. His master had felt himself bound

in duty to take care of the family, whilst Mrs. Llewellyn had been equally anxious to supply every comfort within the sphere of female activity.

"Then," said I, "you have never felt your loss."

"Ah, Sir," she rejoined, "I could not help doing that; he is a bad husband and a bad father that is not missed, and Robin was neither the one nor the other. He took so much delight in home, and it made us so happy when night came and he returned to our cottage; and on Sundays he was so careful to hear the bairns read, or repeat their catechism, or say a hymn. He was so kind, and had such a nice way of teaching them. After he was dead, when night came we were so lonely, and Sunday hardly seemed the same day: we felt bereaved of our dearest earthly comfort. Mr. and Mrs. Llewellyn have been a husband to me and parents to my children, but they could not do for us all that Robin could: yet I can never be thankful enough for such friends."

"Then," I observed, "you do not consider your situation the worst in the world."

She answered, "Every heart knows its own bitterness; I best know mine: I also know the

mercies which have accompanied them. If Robin had been a wicked man and cut off in his sins, or if he had parted with me that morning in anger, or the children had turned out ill; but there was none of these to distress me. On his last morning he prayed with us, as he always did before he went to work; and after he had got to the door, he turned back, and said 'God bless thee, Jenny,' and then bid the bairns be good children, and mind their mother. They have always thought of it. The Squire placed my boy with a little farmer, a tenant of his, who took good care of him and kept him out of harm's way, and when he could stay there no longer he took him into his own service, where he now is; and where I hope he will stay as long as he lives."

"Are all the children alive," I asked, "which your husband left you?"

"Nay," she replied, "two of them are gone home before me. One of them took an ague, and went through a great deal before she could be cured; we thought she only wanted a little time and warm weather to set her up again, but she went off by little and little till she died. She had always been a sweet child, and when she felt herself sinking, she bore it so patiently,

and looked forward to her departure with so much joy: she never called it dying, but always said she was going home, or going to her father. She suffered a great deal, but never complained: she always seemed to hang a hope upon Jesus and what he had done for poor sinners, and that raised her above all her afflictions, and so she died. We had all been aware that she was near her end; as it approached, we watched her more painfully; she seemed to fall into a sleep, and we fancied she would wake no more; but she did wake, and asked me to turn her: I did so; and as I did it, she said, 'I shall soon be happy.'—'Tell my father,' said my eldest girl, who stood by, 'how we have loved him, and still talk of him.'—'I will,' said she, and as I laid her down she became a corpse.

"Of all my children, Joanna had been the most troublesome; not badly inclined, but wayward, and untoward, and impatient. She had always slept with her sister; they were very fond of one another. Mary was hardly gone when Joanna fell ill of the same disorder; and though every thing was done for her that could be done, she went off just like her sister. But, Oh, Sir, such a change! I had often said, 'Its well if thou dost not break thy mother's heart;'

but her sister's death had made such an impression: I hoped we should all feel the good of it as well as herself; and so we did, but most so herself; for she was not spared for us to share it. She became so mild and submissive, and so fearful of doing any thing that might be displeasing to God. I once said to her, 'Joanna, why are you afraid of offending God; when you were in health you were not afraid of him?'—'Oh, mother!' I did not then know how good and gracious he is, and how he was doing me good whilst I was doing ill. He is now taking me to himself, and to my father and sister; and though I do suffer a great deal, (and so poor thing she did,) yet how many things he has done for my comfort, and what a glorious hope when all here is ended: how can I help loving and fearing such a God as this?'

"Well, Sir, she did not last long: the day before she died she revived so much, that some of the neighbours thought she would recover. She was fond of the garden, and the next day she was led to the door to look at it: one that was passing said, 'We shall soon see you in the garden again.'—'I hope you will,' said she, 'but it won't be in this.' She desired to be led in again: as she was sitting down she said, 'In

the garden which the Lord hath planted, there I shall find my rest, and my Redeemer will be my glory; I shall see him face to face:' she laid back her head and died directly without a struggle or a groan."

"Such removals," I observed, "are blessings indeed. I rejoice to find that you are sensible of the mercies extended to you under these trials, and that you can derive support from the one and consolation under the other."

"I have never," she replied, "wished my bairns * back again; and I hope, when I think of them, it is with thankfulness to God for having thus taken them to himself, and for having made me the mother of children, to experience his mercy and to show forth his glory in their salvation."

"We should undoubtedly feel that," I replied, "if we were always under the influence of Christian principles. It is one of the melancholy circumstances attending our fallen state, that we are so perpetually losing sight of our covenant blessings and privileges. We derive neither the comfort nor the edification from God's providences, mercies, or blessings, which we should do if we were as much alive to the

* Bairns—children.—Prov.

privilege of submission to his will as we are convinced of the duty of it. You appear to have been taught this, and to have reaped the benefit of it."

"Next to God," said the dame, "I have to bless our kind Minister for much of this instruction. His unwearied attention helps us on our way through many difficulties and much darkness, which would otherwise perplex and hinder us: he visits us, and we find God's word in his mouth, what he often prays that it may be, a light unto our paths. He is always welcome; yet he is so careful never to come at a time when it might interrupt us in our work, that he commonly seems to call just at that moment when, if he did not come to us, there would have been nothing to do."

"You seem much attached to your Minister," I remarked.

"I am sure, Sir, we ought," she replied, "we owe many comforts to him. He is always labouring for our benefit; and Mrs. Winston is truly his helpmeet in the same work, and all their influence with the great families in the neighbourhood is directed to the same purpose. The Duke never did so much for Passy as when he sent us Mr. Winston for our Minister."

On my arrival at the Rectory, I was gratified at finding the opinion of my friends there perfectly coincident with that I had formed of the widow, and that the Llewellyns were fully deserving of that respectful attachment which she had expressed for them.

CHAPTER XVII.

THE following morning my mind recurring to the adventure of the preceding evening, I inquired if the Llewellyns had been long inhabitants of that part of the country?

"No," replied Mr. Robert Winston, "only a few years have elapsed since they came to the Valley; but they claim antiquity high enough in the Principality."

As he spoke this, I thought I observed an expression of good-humoured hostility slily cast at his sister, who smilingly replied,

"Then I suppose, brother, you condemn respect for our family, or love for our country?"

"Oh, no," he rejoined, "I approve of both: I think love of pedigree and ancestry ridiculous, particularly in Welshmen:—can you find any thing for them to be proud of?"

"I wonder much," resumed Miss Winston, "that you should despise the honours and advantages of the eldest brother:—you know they are the ancient Britons."

"True, my dear sister, I had forgot that; yet

the younger brother has got the fat of the land, whilst that eldest has only retained the bones, or, in other words, the rocks and crags of the country."

"But," replied Miss Winston, "on those rocks and hills they maintained their independence, when all around them bowed to the yoke of the conqueror."

"Then the honourable achievements of past ages, are to cover the want of them in the present—Eh, Clara?"

"No, Robert," returned his sister, "but the noble deeds of the present generation appear more graceful when adorned with the recollection of those of their ancestors. Surely the remembrance of great and glorious actions, in which our kindred have been engaged, is likely to call forth our endeavours to imitate their virtues?"

"Has it produced this effect on the Welsh of the present day?" aked her brother.

"I think," said Miss Winston, "whilst Wales can produce such men as the two Jones's, Jenkins, Kenyon, and Picton, she has no reason to shrink from the inquiry."

"Well, my dear sister," replied Mr. Robert Winston, "I hope the Welsh will always de-

serve the interest they possess in your affections. Yet I must declare I think the Llewellyns rather unreasonable in their attachment to the land of their forefathers. I wonder they have never kept a family chronicle, like the Christies."

"Is that done by the Christies?" I asked.

"Yes," replied Mrs. Winston, "they have several folio volumes of registers of births, family alliances, connexions, and events, extending some centuries back, carefully entered and marked with references for verification. One of their ancestors, addicted to the study of heraldry, commenced it for his own amusement, many years before the establishment of parochial registers. What was begun for amusement has been continued from the experience of its utility."

"The advantages of such a practice," I remarked, "are so evident, that I have often been surprised that it is not more frequently adopted. The institution of the College of Arms originally served to maintain the rights of inheritance; and much as it has been neglected, abused, and perverted, it has, even in modern times, prevented the loss of much property to private inheritors. When I have seen estates devolving upon the crown for want of a sufficiently au-

thenticated claim, I could not help lamenting the neglect of this institution; but it is in the power of every family to supply this defect, by keeping a register similar to that just referred to."

"The Christies," replied Mrs. Winston, "have often asserted, that without these records, which have enabled them to recover considerable wealth belonging to collateral branches, the family could never have maintained itself against the severe shocks which they have sustained in the different periods of their history."

"I admit," said Mr. Robert Winston, with a peculiar expression of countenance, "that the plan is rational, perhaps advisable in an old wealthy family; but the newly acquired property of an old but poor Welsh family can hardly require it."

"The success of different branches of the same family," I observed, "is various: their descent from the same stock ought to be a bond of union, inducing them to assist one another. If any one of these become extinct, the others ought to inherit the wealth belonging to that branch in preference to strangers in blood, or the crown; which last is never really benefited by the reversion. Examples also of good or

bad conduct, recorded in any family, are most likely to become impressive lessons to the members of it, and are calculated to produce far more powerful effects than those derived from other sources."

"My father," said Miss Winston, "has made similar observations, and my brother used to agree with him before he felt his present hostility to the Llewellyns."

"Pray give some particulars of their history," I asked.

"They are descended," replied the Rector, "from a family of considerable importance in North Wales, and of course of great antiquity. During the civil wars of the seventeenth century, the Llewellyn of that day supported the interests of his sovereign with great zeal and activity; and in consequence of it was deprived of all his possessions, and died in great poverty. It is reported, that amidst all his distresses he maintained an unbroken spirit, conscious of his integrity, and consoled by the recollection that he had never submitted to the authority of rebels. His descendants for four generations are said to have obtained holy orders, and honourably and laboriously fulfilled the duties of their sacred calling amongst the mountains of their

native land, in the neighbourhood of their father's patrimony, never rising to any higher preferment than that of a curacy: the last of these died early in life, leaving a widow and an infant son exposed to all the difficulties naturally attendant upon their helpless and unprotected situation.

"It happened that Mrs. Llewellyn was a woman of strong mind, and better education than usually fell to the lot of females in her rank of life sixty or eighty years ago. She removed to the next market town, which afforded the advantage of a grammar school for her son. Here she contrived to establish a sort of school for the support of herself and child. The demand for instruction was by no means equal either to the merits or the wants of the teacher, but yet it afforded her great assistance. The worth of her husband and his pious ancestors had been duly estimated by his and their parishioners, and were afterwards remembered with the peculiar sentiment of veneration felt by that singular and hospitable people. Many little marks of affection and esteem were bestowed at various times upon her by these, which, though small in themselves, contributed largely to assist and relieve her necessities: nor did the powerful

effects of hereditary attachment remain inactive. Several, whose ancestors had been tenants or dependants on the Llewellyns in their most prosperous days, remembered or retraced the connexion, and contributed their offerings to the comfort of the widow and the benefit of the orphan, accompanied with those ardent expressions of hope so familiar to the language of ancient Britain, that the boy might be their pastor like his parent, or their lord like his ancestors: frequently were these wishes accompanied with a declaration that the ground had mourned for the Llewellyns ever since they had been driven from it, nor would it again give forth its fertility till restored to its lawful possessors.

"But the fidelity of these honest mountaineers was not to be gratified. The widow continued cheerfully to struggle with her lot, and rejoice in the blessings of God upon her exertions; that, if poor, she was not left without abundance of friends. Their hearts were larger than their resources, it was true, but that instead of diminishing increased their value in her estimation; and she would have felt truly humbled to have received the least token of regard that had been presented to her from one differently affected. The child, the surviving pledge of the love of

her deceased partner, grew up to delight her eyes and comfort her heart, with the assurance, that could his sainted parent look down upon this inferior world, he would see his son just the boy he had desired; artless and innocent as the mountain dove, full of life, and spirit, and energy, yet affectionate and dutiful as kindness and instruction could make him.

"In his thirteenth year, his industry and proficiency were such, that the worthy master found him capable of lending him considerable assistance in his scholastic labours; for this he did not fail to make him suitable recompence; trifling as this was it afforded encouragement to his exertion, and improved the meagre state of their finances.

"He had scarcely completed his fifteenth year, when Providence began again to frown upon him. His mother returning home in a severe frost, from administering some kind attention to a sick neighbour, poorer than herself, slipped down and strained her knee; it inflamed and mortified, and in two days removed her to her eternal home.

"Evan Llewellyn was now left an orphan on the wide world:—many were the hearts which burned to give him assistance, to enable him to

pursue his father's steps, but none possessed the hand: the kind master of the school took him into his house for a short space, during which he exerted himself to find the means of helping him. Nothing seemed to offer. At length he recollected a youth who had been his pupil, but had gone to London. The lad had been careful, steady, intelligent, and industrious. He had heard from him several times since he had left Wales, and his letters were all expressive of satisfaction with his employment, and written in a style that announced his former amiable qualities to remain unaltered.

"To this youth, David Hughes, he resolved to send young Llewellyn, fully believing, that in such a city as London, so deserving a lad could not fail of obtaining employment and patronage. 'He comes,' said he to himself, 'of a good stock, and deserves the best of the land. The children of a Saxon stranger consume his patrimony; let him go, and amongst the Saxons will be found some keen-sighted enough for their own sakes to employ a diligent British lad, in whose honesty they know they may confide.'

"It is evident that this worthy schoolmaster had had no experience of the world; but however falsely he might reckon there was One

who had heard, and was now answering the prayers which had been preferred for the orphan's welfare, and who was about to guide him into a situation in which he might attain the means to execute those plans of usefulness which he never could have accomplished had he continued in the Principality. His patron had had the prudence to inform Hughes by letter of what he was doing, so that he was prepared for his reception; and immediately on his arrival he conducted him to the house of his employer, Mr. Vince.

"The latter gentleman was a merchant of high respectability; mild in his manners, possessed of a strong and clear judgment, which had induced him early in life to renounce all extensive plans of business, and confine himself to those limited operations which he might carry on without exerting himself to the full pitch of his energies. 'What business I do,' he was accustomed to say, 'I wish to do well;' and he adhered to this plan during the whole course of his commercial life.

"With such intentions and habits he never wanted a large establishment of clerks: in fact he only kept one, and unlike most men of business, he kept this clerk in his house, and endea-

voured to make his abode comfortable to him; by these means he hoped to preserve his morals from that contamination to which young men are so fearfully exposed in every great town, when left to find employment or amusement for themselves after the hours of business.

"He had the satisfaction of seeing this plan attended with complete success; two clerks had preceded Hughes, and both these were then rising in the world, and grateful to him whose kindness and care had preserved them in their youth, and whose friendly assistance had fostered their first attempts to serve themselves.

"It will be no way surprising that such a master should possess the entire confidence of his servants. Accordingly, when Hughes received the letter from his old instructor, he immediately communicated its contents to Mr. Vince, and asked his advice and assistance; habitually cautious, he deferred any explicit reply, but in the evening of the day he authorized Hughes to bring Llewellyn home with him. 'We will employ him for a few days,' said he, 'and if his conduct corresponds with his recommendation, I may find an opportunity of assisting him.'

"What was thus kindly began proved even-

tually advantageous for both parties. Mr. Vince's increasing capital and high reputation for probity and judgment, which had become very generally known by this period, was bringing such an increase of connexions, that one clerk was no longer able to yield him all the assistance he required, whilst Llewellyn just supplied the help he wanted.

"Llewellyn's simplicity prepared him to expect nothing but what was honourable and respectable; with such feelings, had he been employed in a sharp house of business, he would have been perplexed, harassed, and perhaps driven in disgust from employers, who would have equally despised, probably persecuted, one whose integrity would have presented an obstacle and proved a reproach to their transactions. Directed by the same Providence which had supplied all his infantine wants, he found himself placed with a master whose honesty and kindness merited his esteem and regard, and with a fellow clerk whose fidelity to his principal was only equalled by his zeal for his service. Under such influence, it is no wonder that the instructions he had previously received became strengthened and grew up into habits of the most valuable kind.

" Here he had continued several years, when Mr. Vince took the resolution of retiring from business. He had only one son, whose early taste had inclined him to follow a learned profession; a choice which his father heartily approved. The latter, sensible how much of his ease and comfort, as well as prosperity, had been derived from the young men, Hughes and Llewellyn, determined that his retirement should be conducive to their advantage; yet here his usual caution did not forsake him. He suggested divers transactions to them, furnished them with the means of carrying these into effect, and observed the result, not only as to matter of profit, but in the more important influence it might have on their minds and manners. Finding these unaltered, he was encouraged to place further confidence in them, until he found himself warranted to resign his commercial engagements into their hands, and lent them the capital necessary to conduct these with advantage.

" A few years of diligence and economy enabled these young men to return the loan to their kind benefactor. The same discretion which had marked the earliest parts of their lives characterized their commercial and matri-

monial efforts, and conducted them to honourable affluence.

" The events of such a life, however important to those connected with them, are too uniform and devoid of particular interest to admit of detail, but it deserves to be recorded, that after Llewellyn had the command of the necessary means, he paid two or three visits to his native mountains. In these he diligently traced those whose kindness had been so beneficially received by himself and his mother during his early years, carefully seeking to return their favours, but with a delicacy which did honour to his heart. The success which attended these endeavours was as creditable to his judgment as it was gratifying to his feelings and serviceable to the individuals.

" In his useful and honourable occupations he spent a long life; and it was not till he was far advanced in years, and began sensibly to feel the infirmities of old age that he thought of retirement. When such a measure had been previously suggested to him, he would reply, ' I have been used to laborious employment during the whole of my life. My opportunities of mental improvement, since I left school, have been few and inconsiderable. I am now too old to enter

on a course of study. I have money enough, and do not follow business for my own pecuniary advantage. It is my duty to be employed, and if I increase my wealth, I hope it will be neither selfishly hoarded nor foolishly squandered. With regard to my son, the case is quite different; I have given him such an education as will enable him to enjoy and improve a life of more leisure than has fallen to my lot; and such an one as I should have enjoyed could I have had my choice. For myself, it only remains to fulfil the duties of that station in which the providence of the Almighty has so bountifully placed me, as faithfully, honourably, and usefully as I can.'

"And so he did:—he continued diligent in business, yet serving the Lord almost to his dying day. He had never been a slave to his calling, and had always employed a large portion of his wealth in acts of benevolence; particularly towards the natives of the Principality. How large that portion was is unknown, as he might be said strictly to have fulfilled the injunction of our Lord, not letting his left hand know what his right hand did. After his death, many instances of his bounty were discovered, which had never been surmised during his life; and many more probably remain hidden, and

will do so till that day when the secrets of all hearts shall be revealed.

"His son's attentions were unremitting during his declining years. When his affairs were finally closed, the former conceived the design of retiring into the Principality, and, if possible, repurchasing the lands possessed by his ancestors. This he found impracticable, and his only sister, who is married to a clergyman in this county, inviting his attention to the Valley, which was then on sale, he purchased it, and fixed himself in this neighbourhood."

CHAPTER XVIII.

DURING my stay at the Rectory I visited the Valley repeatedly. The situation partook of that romantic character so common to this part of the kingdom. Though in the parish of Passy, it is so sequestered, that a person might be familiar with the village, and yet entirely unacquainted with its existence.

I have already noticed, that the country lying to the south of the river rose suddenly, and then kept nearly level, or very gently undulating for a considerable distance. To the south-east of Passy this swell rose rather more boldly than in any other quarter; and the summit, for a considerable extent, was crowned with a wood, chiefly of oaks; some of which were of extraordinary dimensions.

The road leading to the Valley wound along the side of this eminence, when, taking a turn, it entered the wood, and passed through a short but enchanting piece of forest scenery, until another change of direction presented the Valley to the full view of the spectator.

It was of moderate extent; the hills by which it was enclosed were steep, and the naked rocks frequently rose abruptly to a considerable height; these were thickly planted with shrubs and trees suited to the soil, and covered with a luxuriance of foliage which, contrasted with the rugged and projecting crags, produced an effect highly picturesque and impressive. On the right a copious spring poured forth its waters ,and rolled them towards the middle of the Valley, where the eye rested on a building of the same grey stone that is generally employed for such purposes through this country. The architecture was that of a remote period, and marked the military state of society at the time of its construction. Several plantations almost surrounded, and in some positions obscured, this structure: they were chiefly confined to a spot of about four acres, which was enclosed by a strong stone wall, encompassed again by a wide and deep moat. The interior of this space was somewhat elevated, but probably not more than had been occasioned by the soil which had been raised from the foss having been thrown upon it. The approach was by a narrow bridge, which conducted to a gate placed between two low circular towers,

united by an arch, the curtain over which was embattled. These towers were looped, and their tops also embattled.

The moat was kept constantly full by the waters of the spring before mentioned. The overflow of these conveyed itself across the Valley for nearly two miles, in a southerly direction, at once adding to the beauty and fertility of the landscape, and the surrounding heights not being continuous on that side, it there effected its escape. It was impossible to view this retreat and not to read its history in the face of it. Here in sullen security resided some feudal chief, who found his house his castle when his humbler neighbours could no longer maintain the same assertion; the Valley was his meadow, and when his brave followers could no longer maintain the defence of these wooded heights against the hostile bands which urged on the war; the cattle that grazed in it, driven within this moated and walled enclosure, were safe, until time and a desire of more active service compelled the foe, incapable of perseverance and impatient of delay, to retire.

I could seldom contemplate the view from one of these impending heights without asking myself the question, How would the Rector of

Passy have fulfilled his duties in that day? they would not have been less important than at present; they would have been confined to fewer points, but encompassed with greater difficulties. To teach fierce warriors that faith which, working by love, purifies the heart and conduct, subdues the passions, restrains injustice, animosity, and revenge; which enjoins forgiveness of our enemies, the return of good for evil, the patient endurance of wrong, humility, the practice of loving-kindness and mercy towards all, even those whose violence may have inflicted the deepest injury, consequently to spare our enemies when we are victorious, and, if conquered, to die in the exercise of Christian forgiveness, to restrain the unnecessary effusion of blood, to mitigate all the horrors of war, to forbear provoking hostilities, and to live, as far as possible, in peace with all men. To enforce this on chiefs who brooked no control if prosperous; and who, if unsuccessful, breathed a spirit of the direst revenge, when circumstances should permit, and whose followers swore by the edge of their sword as the most sacred of their sacred things. How must such men have been opposed to his pious instructions? But the operations of war, calculated at all times to

harden the heart, under such circumstances, and in such a state of society, must have produced that effect in its most dreadful form; and where could he have found either captain or soldier to listen to the admonitions of a teacher whose doctrines were at variance with the whole tenor of their lives and desires? It may be supposed that the dying alone would hear him, and a death-bed repentance, not the fruit of conviction of guilt, but the effect of the consequences of misapplied exertion, would have been the only preparative to procure him the attention of his auditors:—an unpromising if not a hopeless field of labour.

Yet the Gospel has been taught under circumstances equally unfavourable, and with a success as extraordinary and unexpected, proving that it is indeed the power of God and the wisdom of God; and if it had been preached to these ruthless sons of violence, its effects would have been of the same ameliorating, subduing, and sanctifying nature. In every age, climate, and country, these have been its blessed results; and consequences so marvellous and important have been effected by means apparently so inadequate as to prove their divine original. But in these ages of darkness, the light of divine truth was buried or concealed, debased or mutilated.

till it no longer bore its heavenly impress, and that by those very persons who professed to exhibit its divine precepts for the instruction of others. Hence that which should have been for their welfare became to them an occasion of falling; and that which should have been a balm for every wound, being perverted to foster those passions and encourage those vices which it was intended to repress, became itself a source of evil; and when the light was made darkness, how great must have been that darkness.

By whom this hold had been first built could not be ascertained, but local records proved it to have been the habitation and retreat of a family more remarkable for the tyrannic exercise of their power than the extent of it. Men, of such a disposition, have ever been as prone to resist the exercise of the just authority of their superiors, as they are eager to trample upon the rights and privileges of their inferiors. The lords of the Valley had pursued this beaten path. Wherever the turbulence of faction had raised the standard of defiance against the sovereign, their name had rarely been wanting on the muster roll. The sagacious and energetic Henry the seventh finally removed them from the list of tenants of the crown, and granted

this part of their inheritance to the priory of ——. His arbitrary and rapacious son suppressed their house and divided their possession amongst his favourites; but the situation of this estate, on the borders of a district which had lately risen in arms against his government, and whose rebellious inhabitants required the control of authority, saved it from a similar grant. There was a brave knight, whose services demanded a reward, whose manners were too blunt and honest to render his presence at court at all times agreeable, but whose fidelity was so well understood, that he was deemed the most proper person to watch over the interests of the crown in this part of the country, and he was armed with extraordinary powers for that purpose.

A minority during the civil wars of the following century preserved the descendants of this loyal and devoted, but not servile, subject from the calamities of those times; and the family continued to maintain its rank and respectability to a late period. The last of that stock degenerating from a long line of illustrious, though not ennobled, ancestors, having squandered his inheritance in gaming and licentiousness, sunk into the grave, a prey to vice and misery. This

estate was sold under a foreclosure and purchased by Mr. Llewellyn.

The house and premises were in a state of great dilapidation. Mr. Llewellyn immediately repaired a part sufficient for the present reception of his family. The restoration of the rest in its primeval style was the amusement of succeeding years. This was completed before the time of my visiting Passy, and the whole then exhibited the appearance of a castellated mansion of great antiquity, but existing in a peaceful æra. The area within the moat was occupied by offices or pleasure grounds. The former were masked under the appearance of works conducive to the strength of the keep, or the convenience of the garrison; while the disposition of the latter bore evident reference to measures which it might be requisite to adopt in case of siege.

The interior strictly corresponded to the style of the exterior. The hold, which had been an irregular pentagon, presented its broadest side to the bridge; this contained a solidly arched entrance, again placed between two circular towers which defended the approach and furnished space for stairs to ascend to the upper story. The turrets and the wall between them was crenelled; the windows occupied the same places

and were of the same shape and dimensions as at their first insertion; they were also filled with painted glass. The decorations consisted chiefly of ancient armour and military weapons of olden times; and while every thing was carefully provided which could contribute to the comfort of the inhabitants, it was so contrived as to preserve a strict uniformity with the style of the architecture and the situation of the place. Could one of its former possessors have returned to visit his past abode, the elegance and convenience, so far surpassing every thing with which he had been familiar must have surprised, and probably would have perplexed him, but he would have found their general appearance so suitable, that he would only have supposed it to be his own furniture and ornaments improved, perfected, or arranged by some of those fairy or fantastic powers, to which the superstition of his own times gave existence.

The Llewellyns had not retired here to pass their lives in that state of listlessness and assumed superiority which so frequently characterizes the class of country gentlemen. His natural taste led him to cultivate the sciences, and his sense of public duty taught him to employ himself for the advantage of that society of

which he was a member. As a gentleman, a magistrate, a landlord, and a parent, he was ever active and alert for the benefit of those around him. Mrs. Llewellyn was the daughter of an opulent citizen; a plain unassuming man, who had evinced his good sense in giving his children a solid and useful education with only a small share of that which is ornamental. Unused to gaiety and dissipation, she had at an early age acquired the habit of providing her own amusement; and of this, general reading formed a considerable part; hence her mind, naturally clear and intelligent, became possessed of a large store of useful knowledge. Her talents for conversation were peculiarly attractive, and supported with great kindness of heart and a sweetness of manner which rarely failed deeply to impress those who had access to her. Yet, from a natural diffidence of temper, she was shy and reserved towards strangers, and it required some intercourse before she cordially and freely displayed those faculties of pleasing which she so eminently possessed. Her daughters, brought up under her own eye, had derived great benefit from her instruction, but more from her example, which she anxiously endeavoured so to form that it might impress on their minds the

value of the precepts taught them. The effect could hardly fail of being great and permanent.

With an understanding thus cultivated, and an ample provision of those domestic employments which become a mother and a wife, she had never felt that dread of a country life, so common to ladies accustomed to dwell in London or its vicinity. Indeed the share she took in her husband's cares and engagements, together with the claims of her family, and her attention to the wants of her poor neighbours, so fully occupied her time, that she often expressed a wonder how a country life could be called a retirement.

Advantages so great and obvious as those to be derived from travelling could not escape the observation of the strong and penetrating mind of the elder Mr. Llewellyn. Under the care of a clergyman of great piety and learning, united to that urbanity of manners which is usually acquired by an extensive intercourse with the world, and in which domesticated scholars are commonly so defective.

His son had attentively examined the British islands, and various parts of the continent. It was the opinion of Mr. Llewellyn, that parents are generally too eager to push forward

education of their children. I heartily concur in this observation; the truth of which receives great confirmation from the success of the different plan he adopted for his son. He kept him under a tutor, till he had completed his nineteenth year. He then sent him to the university, where he went through the regular course of studies, and obtained very distinguished honours. The two following years were spent in visiting almost every part of the united kingdoms; not in taking that cursory view which is all that a tour hastily pursued admits, but in a patient examination of every important particular, historically, naturally, or politically considered. When he had thus made himself acquainted with domestic interests, he sent him to travel on the continent. The confidence of the parent both in his son and his tutor was of such a nature, that they had authority to draw for supplies to any amount requisite to enable them most effectually to accomplish the objects for which they left home; these were well answered. In the whole of my intercourse with the world, I do not recollect to have met with an individual, who more fully united the useful and the ornamental,—extensive information and elegant manners. The father

was fully sensible of his obligations to the preceptor, and exerted his influence in his favour till he had obtained him lucrative preferment.

The family at the valley, besides the parents, consisted of a son and three daughters. At the time of my visit to Passy, the former was on a tour in Ireland, and it was intended that he should pass the ensuing winter in Spain; consequently I had not the pleasure of seeing him, but I learnt from less partial testimony than that of Miss Winston that he well deserved that interest which he sought to obtain in her affections, and which occasionally provoked her brother's satire. The ladies, younger than their brother, promised fair to inherit the talents and amiable qualities of their parents, and to maintain the family character, when called to support a more important part in the drama of real life.

CHAPTER XIX.

LOCAL customs and prejudices are far more deserving of examination than is generally admitted. In remote or retired parts of the country they are usually cherished with a feeling which ensures their continuance, with scarcely a shade of alteration from one generation to another. The superstitions of former ages are often closely connected with these, and give permanency to them; and the influence of opinions, long since generally forgotten, is found active in practices which display the natural weakness or morbid strength of the human mind, and the insufficiency of reason, unenlightened and unassisted by revelation to guide mankind into the way of truth.

The minister of religion may frequently avail himself of these observances to penetrate the character of individuals of his flock, and thence more directly, suitably, and successfully to reprove, correct, instruct, and edify his hearers. No circumstance that opens his access to their

hearts and understandings can be foreign to his consideration.

There was a spring in the neighbourhood of Passy, which was the object of great veneration among the neighbouring inhabitants; I felt a great desire to see it, and one evening, accompanied by the Rector and his eldest son, I repaired thither.

Having passed the river by a ford, in the line of one of our old Roman roads, we ascended gradually for two or three hundred yards, when we reached the foot of a knowle, whose bluff head rose considerably above the adjacent level. Its sides were covered with shrubs and brushwood; we alighted, and leaving our horses we pursued, under the guidance of my younger companion, a narrow rugged path which led to its summit; a beautiful prospect over the vale, in which we could trace the windings of its enchanting stream, broke upon our view. To our right lay Passy, just discernible through the obstructing foliage. The sun descending towards the horizon cast his beams on the spire and turrets of the church of Passy, and the broken walls of the old tower of Branceston, whilst his uninterrupted light coming down the valley between, gave to a landscape greatly varied and highly

diversified, a strength of light and shade strikingly impressive.

The front was bounded by the wood-crowned height, which separated "the Valley" from the village of Passy. To the left the prospect was over a more level district; the chain of eminences, by which the vale was inclosed on that side, rose to a less considerable elevation; the river poured its waters in a smoother course through verdant meadows; the noble gothic tower of Castleton, with its light surmounting spire, illuminated by the rays of the setting sun, showed itself over a wood which concealed the town from our view, but did not prevent us hearing the curfew bell. This flung its note heavily upon the atmosphere. It did not depress, it gave a higher tone to my feelings. It reminded me that I was not the slave of a foreign tyrant, but the free descendant of those who, though compelled for a time to yield submission to a despot, had shaken off the yoke, and converted the warning voice of slavery into a memorial of re-established freedom.

"Here," said the Rector, "stood a chapel dedicated to St. Helen; under whose protection the traveller hoped to pass the ford in safety;

All mountain streams are liable to great and sudden changes; this, when increased by the fall of rain on the hills above, must frequently have been past at imminent peril. In this chapel the passenger confessed himself, presented his offering, and received the spiritual benediction of the priest, before he attempted to go over; or, having come from the other side, returned his thanks, accompanied with some testimony of his gratitude for his safety and deliverance. Hearne records the existence of this chapel in the sixteenth century, but all traces of it have long since been removed, yet the remembrance is preserved in the name of these closes behind us, which are still called the chapel closes.

Descending a few feet from the summit, on the eastern side of the knowle, we came to a small recess completely obscured by hazels. From the roof water dropped continually into a basin, worn in the floor by its own efforts, the superflux of which ran murmuring down the side of the hill towards the river. The refreshing coolness of this cavern, the tinkling sound of the water as it distilled from the top, uniting with the more lively echo of the limpid stream

flowing from it, increased that feeling of delight and tranquillity, which I had already experienced whilst contemplating the surrounding scenery.

Had I been alone amidst so much to elevate and yet calm the mind, I should certainly have fallen into a reverie of the sweetest kind. I could not have failed to have risen from the contemplation of these works of nature, to adore that God who is manifest in all his works. But my young friend soon called my attention to observe the effects of superstition still evidently remaining in the minds of those who flock to this fountain. The bushes around the spring were covered with small pieces of ribbon, tape, and strips of cloth. The fine spreading hazels which extended their arms over it were loaded with nuts. The former he observed were offerings to the saint, believed to preside over the spring, and had been left there to propitiate her favour by those who sought relief from their infirmities; many of these, affected by the power of imagination working on the system, or by their exertions to reach the spot, derive great benefit, but which they are confident they should not receive, if they did not leave some testimony of their respect and credulity.

I remarked to my companions the paltry nature of these offerings, they agreed; but one of them added, "if they are careless of giving St. Helen anything valuable, they are at least as careful of not taking anything they suppose to be hers, the water alone excepted. These hazels appear never to have been lopped; I dare say, if the lord of the manor wished it, he could hardly find a woodman who would dare to lift his axe for the purpose. The fruit which you see hanging so abundantly on the branches, will all be suffered to drop and be carried away by vermin rather than any inhabitant of the neighbourhood would gather it. From these boughs I have frequently filled my pockets late in the season, long after all the neighbouring ones had been completely stripped."

We returned to seek our horses, but they were removed from the place where we had left them. After a little search we found them grazing under the care of a man whose countenance and general appearance was singularly impressive. Evidently advanced in years, he exhibited a degree of strength and activity by no means corresponding with his spare figure and hoary locks. His thick bushy eyebrows, which had once been black but which were now

intermixed with grey, projected over a keen penetrating eye, on which dwelt a peculiar wildness of expression, united to mirthful vivacity. He waited our approach with the greatest apparent inattention; we passed him to examine a stone which appeared to have been a Saxon altar. When we returned I was surprized at the easy independent manner in which he addressed my friends, full of confidence and freedom, yet void of impertinence. His interference was recognized as an act of attention, neither unexpected nor unwelcome; he assisted myself and the rector to mount, with the dexterity of a regular groom, and just touching his hat said in the dialect of the country, "Ye maun make the best o' y'ere way hame, or y'ell na' miss the storm that's rising."

"That is a singular character," I observed, "but his ease and familiarity particularly surprise me."

"Oh, replied," my younger friend, "every one who knows old George is easy and familiar with him; it is impossible to be otherwise. He is the most independent man in the country, and under other circumstances might have been a useful member of society, though he is now a trespasser."

"That man," replied the rector, "is a poacher, yet not one of the common sort. His singular expression of wildness, which you cannot fail to have observed, has often excited terror in those who have not known him. I believe he is incapable of offering a personal injury to any one, except in self-defence, and his presence in time of danger would create confidence in all who know him."

"I wonder that he is permitted to pursue these practices."

"He has not pursued them unmolested," said Mr. Winston, "but any ordinary man would have found his course obstructed by fewer difficulties than he has surmounted. He is a sports- in humble life; had he lived in a half civi- l state of society he would have been a efactor to it, pursuing the wild beasts of the field with courage and activity and adding to the peace and security of his neighbours. Had there been no obstacle, it would have been his pleasure as well as employment to catch game, and his support to sell it. The laws making this penal, he is a poacher; they have not prevented him following his choice, they have only made him a criminal."

I asked—"Has he never been punished for these practices?"

"Repeatedly," answered the rector, "but to no purpose. He has been sent to the house of correction, and there he made himself so useful that the keeper regretted the termination of his confinement, whilst the parish murmured at the expence of maintaining his family. He was once brought before a bench of magistrates at the Quarter Sessions, having been taken that morning with game in his possession; he reminded one of them that he had been very angry with the landlord on a former occasion for having omitted to provide game for their dinner when he could not expect it to be there legally, and then proved that if he had not been interrupted what he had been deprived of would have been served up at their worships' table. I could relate similar instances, but it forms an honourable part of his character, that he has never been known to indulge any revengeful feeling towards those who have interfered with him in these pursuits. He has often become acquainted with plans of intended mischief, and to those likely to be affected by them he has uniformly imparted information sufficient to

preserve them from injury. I must also add, that I have found him very grateful for trifling services."

"This," I observed, "is not the character of a common poacher."

"It may probably be traced to his having always pursued his course solitarily. Had he joined himself to others of the same calling, he would probably have afforded an example of the corruption derived from evil communications. I have often endeavoured to convince him of the duty of obeying the laws of our country, and the consequences of a life spent in disobedience to them, but with no success. He maintains that the fowls of the air and the wild beasts of the field are freely given to all who can catch them, and that no man has a right to deprive another of his natural inheritance. He has appealed to me, whether, in consequence of these pursuits, he has been a bad husband or a careless father, and I could not assert that he had. His family have been brought up decently. He is addicted to no vice. He has never suffered his boys to accompany him in his pursuits, but has placed them all in services as soon as they were fit for labour, and they have turned out well."

"Did your admonitions offend him?" I inquired.

"No," retured my companion, "they have been received with respect and gratitude. He is a very skilful manufacturer of fishing tackle, and carries on a little trade in that way. When I have reproved him, some little article of that kind was so commonly conveyed to the boys, whilst they were of an age suitable to receive it, that I was often deterred from repeating it. It cannot be expected that such a man will be a frequenter of religious worship; yet he does not altogether neglect it, and is always anxious to facilitate the attendance of his family."

When we parted from old George, his warning seemed quite superfluous. Scarcely the smallest cloud appeared in the heavens: the evening breeze had not arisen. Mr. Robert Winston observed, that old George was seldom wrong in his opinion of the weather; but that the symptoms of change, then apparent, did not seem to justify his prediction. Before we reached the Rectory, we had evident signs of the approach of one of those storms so common in the hilly country of Britain. The rain soon fell in torrents. For more than two hours the thunder rolled through the heavens with little

intermission, and its echo was reverberated from the neighbouring cliffs with awful grandeur; the lightning burst from the clouds in double and triple flashes, and played upon the surface of the earth with extraordinary vividness and brilliancy; frequently exhibiting the appearance of ribands darting from above, in zigzag directions, and extending to the ground with a variety of hue which I never before observed in this phenomenon:—some of these tinged with a clear mild lilac were particularly beautiful.

At length the fury of the tempest diminished, the rain gradually ceased, and before midnight the moon in all her mild splendour shone forth amidst a host of stars in a cloudless sky.

"You will have an opportunity," said Mrs. Winston, "of observing the rapid rise of waters, which usually follows a storm in this country, especially when it comes from the west. The meadows will probably be flooded to-morrow."

Naturally an indifferent sleeper, I felt my repose yet farther interrupted by the forcible impression of what had just passed before me, I rose with the earliest dawn and repaired to the terrace in the garden. The river was no longer the clear transparent stream, which barely filled

the channel worn for itself during many successive ages. A mighty torrent flowed with a tremendous roar between the craggs, which overhung its course: the dam was lost beneath the increase of waters, which poured themselves over the banks and inundated all the level ground of the valley, which the preceding evening had delighted my eyes with its verdant pastures and beautiful herds. It was become a vast lake, whose waves, agitated by a strong east wind, which blew up the vale, rolled on successively till they broke against the shore with violence.

During the whole of this day old George was missing. It caused no alarm to his family; the habits of a poacher must of necessity be irregular. But when another night had passed without his return, it excited a diligent inquiry. The keepers of the neighbouring manor of Loudwater had that night, after the cessation of the storm, pursued a man, whom they had detected poaching, to the river, when, throwing down some recently killed rabbits, he dashed into the stream, already raised to the very top of its banks; they then had no doubt but it was old George, and no apprehension but he would reach the opposite shore in safety. He was

known to be an excellent swimmer, and frequently by a similar attempt to have saved himself from being taken. On this occasion it proved fatal. A short distance below the place where he had entered the water, in the middle of the channel, was a bank planted with osiers, and which were completely covered in the time of flood; there his corpse was found. By the violence of the current he had been carried thither, and becoming entangled amongst these plants, was drowned.

CHAPTER XX.

An elegant writer has well described the three hundred years residence of a knight in Fairy-land as apparently so short, that he could not be persuaded that he staid there a month. The current of time had flown so happily, that he had not marked its course. I had experienced a rapid succession of days and nights spent with friends endeared by many past recollections, as well as by numerous present attractions; but though time had passed rapidly I had been under no delusion. The endearments of home had been neither overlooked nor forgotten. The termination of my vacation and the period of our separation had arrived.

My engagements, and particular events affecting my own immediate connections, forbad the anticipation of a speedy repetition of this visit. The habits and duties of my friend scarcely allowed the hope that he might return it. Our parting was therefore as solemn as our meeting had been pleasant. The circumstances of youth, and the incidents likely to arise during

lives as yet only in their commencement, encouraged the expectation that I might again see the junior members of the family, but this did not exclude the awful sensation, that the next meeting of the seniors would probably be in eternity; nor did this banish the consolatory feeling, that the survivor might partake of a mournful but real pleasure in the cultivation of an affectionate intercourse with the children of a friend so long and so deservedly beloved.

Under impressions of this sort, society becomes painful. I was saved the irksomeness of company, whilst in this mood, by having the coach entirely to myself during the first stage. This gave me time to review and consider the exertions of that friend from whom I had just parted, and in whose steps I should wish to tread, should the providence of the Almighty, at any future period, place me in a similar situation.

Amongst the mercies which accompany a journey, that of meeting with pleasant companions is by no means the least. As the coach proceeded, it received two more passengers. The one a steady man of business, unassuming but not ignorant; the other a military man, who had served long in India; one who knew how to fear God as well as to honour the king,

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